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Sunday, April 26, 2009

INSIDE



IMF Fundraiser

The International Monetary Fund will sell bonds as a way to raise funds to lend to struggling nations, the head of the organization said Saturday, in a victory for developing countries.

Business...Page 14



Yankee Promise

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton tried to reassure nervous Iraqis that the U.S. won't abandon them, even as she said the American troop withdrawal would stay on schedule despite a recent surge in violence.

World...Page 17

Documentary on Hillblom at Tribeca Film Fest. **PAGE 2**

Residents' buying power weakened. **PAGE 8**

THE SUNSHINE PROJECT

Nearly half
of NMI govt
agencies flunk
OGA test

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
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EDITOR



A test survey of major CNMI government agencies show spotty compliance with the mandates of the Open Government Act, with nearly half failing to provide the requested document, and most having different rules and requirements when responding to OGA requests.

A recent survey conducted by the Saipan Tribune showed that, of the 27 major government agencies tested, only 12 provided the document within the 10 days allowed under the Act. Three agencies took longer than 10 days but only one asked for an ex-

See OGA on Page 4

*'No need to use
magic words'*

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Open Government or "Sunshine law" was created to err on the side of disclosure, one local lawyer who uses the Open Government Act regularly explains.

"This law, almost every state has one. These laws are called Sunshine laws sometimes. All it takes is a request to the custodian of records at whatever department you want the document," lawyer George Hasselback said.

See MAGIC on Page 4

Villagomez resigns

No decision yet on his replacement

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Timothy P. Villagomez resigned from his position of lieutenant governor over the weekend after being found guilty of federal criminal charges on Friday.



Villagomez

A federal jury found Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos guilty of all charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. through needless purchases of a de-scaling chemical called Rydlyme.

See VILLAGOMEZ on Page 4



YOUNG AND OLD

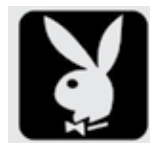
Saipan's *man'amko* in their colorful garb perform island dances at the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center during the weekend. Inset, a member of the Kula Natibu Dance Squad of Guam smiles as she performs a traditional island dance. The CNMI's biggest cultural event drew thousands of people from Thursday night to Sunday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Playboy features Saipan's 'Clubmates'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Playboy, the largest selling men's magazine in the United States, has featured some of the



American male "Clubmates" at the Pacific Islands Club, touching on their activities that go beyond helping hotel guests with sports and other entertainment activities in the facility. The article, titled "Paradise

Lost," is available online at <http://www.playboy.com/articles/paradise-lost-saipan-clubmates-pic/index.html>.

It is one of the investigative reports in the May 2009 edition of the magazine, its

See PLAYBOY on Page 4

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Local

Documentary on Hillblom at Tribeca Film Fest

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A documentary on the mysterious disappearance of DHL Worldwide Express co-founder Larry L. Hillblom is one of the feature films at the 2009 Tribeca Film Festival held from April 22 to May 3 in New York.

Hillblom, the "H" on the business name DHL, was an aircraft enthusiast. His plane went down on May 21, 1995, on a flight from Pagan to

Saipan. The bodies of the pilot and of a fellow passenger were found, but Hillblom's body was never recovered.

The 86-minute documentary, titled "Shadow Billionaire," is directed by Helmer Alexis Manya Spraic and produced by Sasha Alpert.

"Shadow Billionaire" is among the 85 features and 46 short films representing 36 different countries in the ongoing Tribeca Film Festival which also includes panel discus-

sions, valuable networking opportunities for filmmakers and the industry, gala premieres of highly anticipated new studio releases and a number of free community events.

Hillblom, the largest shareholder in DHL Worldwide Express, moved to Saipan in the 1980s. On Saipan, he started several businesses and development projects in Hawaii, Vietnam, and the Philippines. He disappeared after crashing

See **DOCUMENTARY** on Page 4

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'Bill veto needed to fund immigration'

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will need to veto a Legislature-approved bill in order to fund the Division of Immigration through the rest of the fiscal year, according to Sen. Maria Pangelinan.

The senator said Secretary of Finance Eloy Inos asked that, instead of passing House Bill 16-129 appropriating money deposited in the Tobacco Control Fund to various agencies, the Legislature instead pass a bill appropriating \$400,000 to the Division of Immigration.

However, both the House and Senate passed the bill.

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget only funded the Immigration Division through May 31, the day before Public Law 110-229 was scheduled to go into effect.

With the Department of Homeland Security pushing back the start date to Nov. 28, additional money must be al-

located to fund personnel and operations for the agency.

The House Ways and Means and the Senate Fiscal Affairs committees are jointly drafting a bill to allocate the money, said Esther Fleming of the Office of Management and Budget.

The six-month delay was announced just before the administration submitted its Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal to the Legislature on April 1, so it includes funding for the Division from Oct. 1—the start of the new fiscal year—to Nov. 28—when the federal government will take over local immigration.

"Our main problem is funding that they [the Legislature] took out from June 1 to Sept. 30," Fleming said.

The cash-strapped Commonwealth government will be able to generate revenue for six more

months in certain areas.

Six more months of the Russia and China markets could mean more than \$100 million coming into the CNMI, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. Nonresident worker fees will also be coming in for six more months, an additional \$2.5 million to \$3 million in revenue.

The Department of Labor, which will also be run by the federal government, was fully funded through the end of the fiscal year. The CNMI has sued the federal government in an effort to stop the takeover of local immigration and filed a preliminary injunction to halt the labor provisions in PL 110-229.

Fleming said she had talked with Immigration employees about their job status.

"I did meet with all the employees on different occasions,"

she said. "I did assure them they are still be on board. We will find one way or another. They were very worried."

Melvin Grey, director of the

local Division of Immigration, earlier said staff morale was low at the agency, as employees were unsure about their future.

When the postponement of

the start date was announced earlier this month, Grey said it was still business as usual at the Immigration Division.

Sixty-one employees will be able to keep their jobs for another six months, but "we'll have to face it again in six months," he said.

Lower Base investor willing to pay for new power plant

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

A company interested in leasing the entire Lower Base dry dock property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority is looking into paying for a new power plant as part of the project, according to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Allegiance Capital Corp. is looking to invest millions of dollars into the CNMI in line with the company's project with the military.

The whole seaplane ramp area in Lower Base is currently the site of a submarine station, a restaurant, and the holding area for Tinian boats, as well as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1, the main power plant on Saipan.

"I told them I'd only move CUC if they paid for a new power plant. Guess what? They're looking into it," Fitial said at a news briefing last week.

A 25-year lease agreement is being drafted between the Allegiance Capital Corp. and the

CNMI government, according to a source close to the project.

Once the lease is signed, processing of the local and federal permits is expected within two years. The project is expected to infuse \$100 million in revenue into the local economy, Fitial said.

About 8,000 U.S. Marines are expected to be transferred from Okinawa Japan to Guam starting in 2012. The CNMI is expected to economically benefit from the plan as portions of Tinian may be used for training sites.

Hundreds of Tinian homestead lots to be distributed this week

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands will be conducting a lottery drawing of homestead lots on Tinian on Thursday, the same day when it will also issue congratulatory letters to hundreds of qualified homestead applicants on the island.

The issuance of congratulatory letters was originally set for last Friday, April 24, but DPL had to postpone it because of legal matters that need to be resolved first.

Ray M. Cing, director of DPL Tinian, said as of 4pm Friday, 349 homestead applicants had already been reviewed and approved for lots.

"We are continuing to review. We may have the final list by Tuesday. We go beyond our work hours to complete the review of the applications," Cing told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

The last time DPL distributed a large number of homestead lots on Tinian—over 100 of them—was in 2001, Cing added.

Each homestead lot has a size of anywhere between 800 sq.m. to 1,000 sq.m.

Cing said they received over 500 applications for these lots.

"In the lottery drawing, qualified applicants will be able to know where their lot will be located. We have five different areas on Tinian for these homestead lots," he said.

The DPL director also reminded those who will qualify for homestead lots to prepare \$50 for the permitting fee.

"There is no politicking going on here. We have worked for a

year on this planning. It's a constitutional mandate," said Cing.

The lottery drawing is scheduled for Thursday, April 30th, at 9:30am at the Tinian Youth Center.

DPL reminds homestead applicants to bring a valid proof of identification. Those who are unable to make it to the event may be allowed to participate by appointing a duly authorized representative.

The representative is required to bring a valid proof of identification of himself/herself and that of the non-

appearing applicant. "A representative must also present a valid proof of express delegation of authority to participate in the drawing on behalf of the non-appearing applicant," DPL said in a public announcement.

Earlier, DPL secretary John S. Del Rosario called on Tinian and Rota homestead applicants to patiently wait for the actual distribution of lots as DPL hurdles regulatory agencies' requirements, as well as duplicate applications, among other things.



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DOCUMENTARY

From Page 2

his World War II seaplane returning to Saipan. He was 52.

“Leaving behind almost a billion

PLAYBOY

From Page 1

award-winning writer John Bowe confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday via email when asked about the publication date.

Kieran Daly, general manager of PIC, yesterday said majority of the story is not true, consisting of a lot of made-up characters.

“I would say 25 percent of the story is true and the rest is fictional. Clubmates help guests have a good time and enjoy their stay...It (story)

MAGIC

From Page 1

In the CNMI, it is best to send a letter to the head of the agency. For example, he said, if somebody wants something from the Department of Public Safety, they should address it to the Commissioner and it can then be forwarded on to the pertinent person.

“If somebody wants to do it the right way, they should probably reference the Open Government Act,” he said. “They should describe the document specifically enough so they know what you’re talking bout. You don’t need to

VILLAGOMEZ

From Page 1

By resigning from office, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said Villagomez made one of the most difficult decisions of his life.

“I recognize the enormous difficulties experienced by Lt. Governor Villagomez and his family at this time, and I admire the courage and fortitude displayed by Lt. Governor Villagomez in carrying out his last official act for the Commonwealth’s benefit,” Fitial said in a statement released yesterday. “I understand Tim’s decision. It is a decision he has made for his family—for his wife, six children, and grandchild—as well as for the people of the CNMI. I respect his decision and the efforts he will make to comfort his family, maintain his dignity, and restore a sense of normalcy to his life.”

Villagomez is the highest ever CNMI official to be convicted in a criminal case. He is the brother of Joaquina Santos, who is married to James Santos.

The administration is not prepared to

OGA

From Page 1

tension and two provided explanations for the delay.

Twelve other agencies, however, actually failed to provide the document, a clear violation of the law. These 13 agencies did not bother to explain why they failed to provide the document being asked for, despite the many follow-ups with their offices. In about two instances, the request was met with hostility and suspicion.

Of the 12 that complied with the OGA request, the star performers were the Northern Marianas Col-

lars, Hillblom sparked a battle over his estate that took on epic proportions: Led by a soft-spoken but unwavering lawyer from Saipan, the impoverished teenage prostitutes who claim to have birthed Larry’s heirs find themselves pitted against

is more fiction than fact,” Daly told *Saipan Tribune* over the phone when asked for comment.

In “Paradise Lost,” Bowe says the Clubmates aren’t hired specifically to have sex with the guests at Pacific Islands Club, more known as PIC, in San Antonio.

“Certainly, the management doesn’t instruct them to do anything other than help guests enjoy themselves,” Bowe says in the article, which changed some of the names of the interviewees.

One of the Clubmates interviewed says he first heard about PIC from some friends who had va-

use any magic words. It is a law that is intended to err on the side of disclosure.”

Hasselback said open government laws were created to help the citizens obtain public records.

“Back in the days before these types of laws, you’d request records that were supposed to be open but you’d get the runaround from the various agencies, ‘Oh, well, you have to talk to so and so, oh you have to talk to so and so. I don’t know where the records are. The records are in the other building. I’ll get to it when I have to,’” he said. “What this does is it puts the burden on the government. They have a certain

announce an appointment to the position at this time, Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor’s Office, said yesterday.

“We’re taking it one step at a time,” Reyes said. “As you know, the Senate must be consulted. I expect there will be some discussion as early as (today) to resolve the issue. At this point we’re not prepared to make a statement.”

By next week, he said more should be known. He noted the conviction was announced on Friday.

“Things are happening fairly quickly,” he added.

Under the CNMI Constitution, whenever there is a vacancy in the Office of Lieutenant Governor, the governor must appoint a successor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Reyes said there have been discussions on possible replacements, with most people assuming Finance Secretary Eloy Inos to be named to the position. Inos is running as lieutenant governor with Fitial in November’s election. This would create a vacancy in the Department of Finance that

lege, which showed the document within 10 minutes of being asked; the Governor’s Office and the Commonwealth Development Authority, which both provided the document in less than an hour; and the CNMI Judiciary, which e-mailed the document after just five hours.

The goal of the test survey, officially dubbed “The Sunshine Project,” was to simulate an ordinary member of the public visiting a government agency and asking to examine its budget request for fiscal year 2009. The survey auditors, all employees and reporters of the *Saipan Tribune*, were also told to request a copy of the document.

The *Saipan Tribune* decided on this

Larry’s former business associates, blinded by greed and entitlement, and several of the largest law firms in the world,” according to the Tribeca Films website.

Through DNA testing, it was determined that Hillblom fathered a Vietnamese child, two Filipino children, and a child from Palau. In the final settlement after years of legal battle, each of the four children received \$90 million (about \$50 million after taxes and fees), while the remaining \$240 million went to the Larry L. Hillblom

the same experience with hotel guests.

“Most Clubmates sign up for six-month shifts. Several of the guys I meet signed on for the stint that runs from September to March—the holiday season,” Bowe writes.

One of the Clubmates says part of the job is to make sure the guests have a good time. “Our whole job here is to help people have a good time. Sometimes it’s a family that needs help. Sometimes it’s a young girl that needs help.”

Clubmates interviewed for the *Playboy* article say their lifestyle on Saipan “includes fun in the sun, low wages and long hours.”

amount of time to respond to you. If they don’t, they can be liable for penalties.”

In the CNMI, government agencies are required to provide the documents within 10 days and can charge a reasonable fee for copying.

In his experience, Hasselback said some agencies in the Commonwealth get an A+ and some get an F.

“Like every other law in the CNMI, it’s a matter of whether or not it’s enforced,” he said. “There are some times it’s just not enforced. I understand it’s Saipan, we’re all supposed to be a little more relaxed, but the way the law reads you have 10 days. Ten days to act on it.”

would need to be sorted out.

‘Always his decision’

Rep. Tina Sablan had called on Villagomez to resign after the indictment was handed down in August. She also introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives in February that would have created a committee to investigate the charges against Villagomez and report recommendations on whether there was cause for impeachment. The resolution failed to get enough votes to pass.

Press secretary Reyes said the decision to resign has always been up to Villagomez.

Even if Villagomez had not resigned from the office over the weekend, the Constitution states that no person convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction of the United States may hold the Office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor unless a full pardon has been granted. Villagomez would need a presidential pardon because the case was tried in federal court.

Santos voluntarily resigned from his post as Commerce Secretary in August,

document after acting Attorney General Gregory Baka said that OGA requests must be for documents that already exist. The FY 2009 budget is already law, noncontroversial, and should be readily available for inspection and copying.

Grades A to F

The government agencies that flunked the test survey for failing to show the requested document are the Public School System, Commission on Elections, Department of Public Health, Department of Public Safety, Tinian Mayor’s Office, Rota Mayor’s Office, Northern Islands Mayor’s Office, Division of Corrections, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth

Utilities Corp., Department of Public Works, and Department of Finance.

The ones that complied with the request within the 10 days allowed under the OGA are the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Auditor, CNMI Judiciary, Department of Commerce, Office of the Governor, Saipan Mayor’s Office, NMI Retirement Fund, CDA, NMC, Division of Environmental Quality, Department of Labor, and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Lands, and the Legislative Bureau took more than 10 days to comply with the request (DLNR, 24 days; DPL, 16

Foundation, which followed Hillblom’s wishes and donated funds to University of California for medical research.

To this date, the Larry L. Hillblom Foundation continues to support CNMI projects and programs.

The author, Bowe, who is based in New York, received in 2004 the J. Anthony Lukas Work-in-Progress Award, the Sydney Hillman Award for journalists, writers, and public figures who pursue social justice and public policy for the common good, and the Richard J. Margolis Award, dedicated to journalism that combines social concern and humor.

One of his books, “Nobodies,” is an exposé of modern labor practices in the U.S. which, in certain circumstances, have lent themselves to virtual enslavement. The book takes the readers to Saipan, Florida, and Oklahoma.

formation Act into law. It went into effect the following year. The Act applies only to federal agencies. However, all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and some of the territories have similar laws.

The Commonwealth’s law is pretty standard, Hasselback said.

“These laws are in several states. Guam has a similar one,” he added. “Many other states have these laws in place. The details may change a little. They may have a different time to respond, or they may have different statutory requirements, but it’s all going to be about the same thing. There’s not going to be any huge variation from state to state.”

eration, the jurors found Villagomez and James Santos guilty of conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

Joaquina Santos was found guilty of conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, aiding and abetting to commit theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the sentencing for July 28, 2009. After the sentencing, the defendants will have 10 days to file a notice of appeal. As of Friday, it was not known if Villagomez and the Santoses would appeal.

The maximum penalty for wire fraud is 20 years in prison, while the other counts range from five to 10 years.

Munson allowed the defendants to remain free pending their sentencing.

days; and LB, 15 days)

In the case of DLNR, “Henry Hofschneider called on the ninth day, asking for an extension of the request due to the unavailability of the person in charge of the document,” said reporter Moneth Deposa.

As for DPL, reporter Ferdie dela Torre said he met with DPL counsel Braddock Huesman, who gave him the document and explained that he was busy handling the OGA lawsuit filed by Rep. Tina Sablan against the CNMI government.

The Legislative Bureau e-mailed the requested document with no explanation for the 15-day delay.

See OGA on Next Page

Inouye seeks study of internment camps as possible historic sites

U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye Friday introduced a bill to have the Secretary of the Interior conduct a study to determine if World War II internment camp sites in Hawaii are eligible to be listed as historic sites under the National Park System.

"During World War II, over 1,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated in at least eight locations on Hawaii," Inouye said.

"In a report completed in 2007, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii documented these sites that include Hon-

ouliuli Gulch, Sand Island, and the U.S. Immigration Station on Oahu, the Kilauea Military Camp on the Big Island, Haiku Camp and Wailuku County Jail on Maui, and the Kalaheo



Inouye

Stockade and Waialua County Jail on Kauai. These camps also held approximately 100 local residents of German and Italian ancestry.

"Those detained included the lead-

ers of the Japanese immigrant community in Hawaii, many of whom were taken from their homes and families in the hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The forced removal of these individuals began a nearly four-year odyssey to a series of camps in Hawaii and on the continental United States. Over 1,000 immediate family members of these men joined

their husbands, fathers and relatives in mainland camps. The detainees were never formally charged and granted only token hearings. Many of the detainees' sons served with distinction in the U.S. armed forces, including the legendary 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service. *(Honolulu Advertiser)*

OGA

From Page 4

Public Law 8-41 states that failure to provide a public document for inspection within 10 days is considered a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500. Anyone who willfully and knowingly violates the OGA is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in prison, or by a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.

Questions

As much as possible, the survey auditors were to refrain from introducing themselves as members of the media and were assigned to government agencies where they were least likely to be recognized. However, none of the 27 agencies tested presented the document to the requester with no questions asked.

Nowhere in the OGA does it state that one must give one's name and agency before a public document can be released but 22 of the CNMI agencies surveyed immediately asked for the requester's name while 23 asked what agency he or she is affiliated with.

Also, be prepared to explain why. When surveyors asked to see the budget document, 17 agencies wanted to know what the requester will do with the document. Only five, however, explained why they were asking these questions, with most say-

ing they don't want to release documents that do not reflect the numbers that were eventually submitted to the Office of the Governor.

Because reporter Kristi Eaton is known at Commerce, she sent editorial assistant Jovan Fred first into the office to ask for the document. Fred was told to go to the Office of Management and Budget.

"She [Fred] was asked why she wanted the documents and she said she was a concerned citizen. She was asked where she was from. She was also told she needed to submit a letter," said Eaton.

In the case of those agencies that did not ask for the requester's name or agency, it was because the person was immediately recognized as a reporter.

"One disadvantage is that the front desk personnel of CPA knew right away that the person asking for information is a journalist," said reporter Haidee V. Eugenio. "CPA immediately referred my inquiries to the accounting department. The CUC Office of the Director also knew right away that the requester is a journalist but it immediately asked for a formal request letter, which was provided right away."

Both CPA and CUC have yet to produce the document being asked for.

Thirteen of the 27 agencies surveyed required surveyors to first submit an OGA request before providing the document.

Of the 15 government agencies that eventually provided the document, only four collected photocopying charges—DLNR, Commerce, DEQ, and Labor—at .50 cents per page. The others e-mailed or hand-delivered them.

Permission first

Those that actually failed to provide the document up to now had varying reactions to the request but most said they needed to ask the permission of the division or department head before releasing the document.

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Kagman Elementary School tops float competition

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kagman Elementary School students set another record at the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival after they successfully defended their best float title during Saturday's competition held at Susupe Civic Center.

Led by principal Ignacia Demapan and school coordinator Maria Helena Jebehn, students amazed spectators with their creativity in designing their float. It carried the island's traditional hut design, various local produce, and specific items specific to other countries and ethnicities.

The students continued to impress jurors when they showcased traditional costumes of various countries as they waived to the crowd during the festival parade Saturday morning.

The float's notable displays—that included the islands' traditional canoe, fishing materials, latte stone, Yap's money stone, Japanese shrine, flags of different nations, and others—also got the jurors' approval.

This year's theme is "Uniting Rainbows of Cultures and Traditions."

Demapan, elated by the festival turnout, disclosed that ever since they decided to enter the competition last year, their stu-

dents have been focused to win.

She vowed to continue the school's participation in the event which, she said, is an extension of the classroom for student learning.

"This served as an extension of what our kids learned in the school. We're bringing them here for them to actually experience and witness the diverse cultures we have in the community. The kids' involvement in this festival is also our way of partnering with the community," Demapan said.

Jebehn said it took the school some weeks to complete the preparation for the festival.

"It's all worth it because this

provides fun and learning to our students," she said, adding that it is also the school's goal to expose kids to community events.

Kagman Elementary School students went home with \$500 in cash for their victory.

Named second best float was the "bull cart" entry presented by the family of Eusebio Borja, who is among the sons of the Rosa Borja known for her preservation of the islands' culture and traditions. Decorated by local produce and century old artifacts, the "bull-cart" was pulled by a cow.

Meanwhile, students of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School were overjoyed when

their entry was named third best float in the competition.

Second and third best floats received cash prizes of \$300 and \$200, respectively.

Few parade participants

Despite the presence of "only" 200 participants, Parade of Cultures coordinator Jonas Barcinas said the outcome was still satisfying.

He noted that there were other events held simultaneously on island last Saturday.

"We're very happy with the turnout because we also knew that we have other events ongoing on island," he said.

There were originally five

entries for the float competition but due to unexpected circumstances, two of the contenders backed out at the last minute.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, through festival coordinator Lucille Ayuyu, said they were also quite satisfied with the outcome of the parade and float competition.

"It's extremely satisfying to see another successful year for the Flame Tree Arts Festival," said Ayuyu.

The four-day event was also graced by a crew from *National Geographic* which traveled to cover the visiting master navigators from Satawal.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Kagman Elementary School was adjudged best float in the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival float competition held Saturday in the Susupe Civic Center.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The winning float of Kagman Elementary School is shown here during Saturday's 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman Elementary School Ignacia Demapan, standing right at the back, proudly stands with students after the school was declared winner of the float competition.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman Elementary School students wave at the crowd during the parade from their winning float.

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Hair dyeing tops MBA science fair

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An experiment demonstrating the effects of dyeing to human hair emerged as the best entry in the 5th Annual Science Fair at Marianas Baptist Academy last Friday, beating 11 other group projects from students in various grade levels.

With the theme "Excellence in

Science and Technology Starts with Us," 12 projects were entered into the competition.

Leaders of the champion team said it took the group almost a month to prepare and finish the presentation.

From 30 suggested topics from members, Debora Yoon said they narrowed down the ideas into five until they decided to do the "Dyeing Hair = Dying

Hair?" which impressed the competition's jurors.

An actual test showing the "dyeing activity" in three days convinced the team that the process, though fashionable, can cause harmful effects to hair.

Based on the project's conclusion, ammonia actually causes more damage to hair over time because it opens the

hair cuticles which will never be closed again.

"Some people don't know what truly happens to the hair after they dye. Through this project, we can provide them factual information based on research and study...it would benefit people," Yoon told *Saipan Tribune*, noting the many competitive and interesting entries every year.

Michael Sheu, co-leader of the group, admitted that "dyeing hair" is not a recommendable procedure for him.

"Besides the hair damage, it could also cause some health concerns...based on research," he said.

Aside from Yoon and Sheu, other members of the winning team are Mark Anthony Liban, Young Eun Lee, Chelsea King, and Min Ha Kim.

Named second best entry was "Just Drop It In!", a project that showcased alternative way of properly addressing pollution.

Its group leader, Yong Hwa Choi, demonstrated the improvised structure that would systematically segregate the bottles from papers and biodegradable materials.

"The idea behind this project...is to help address pollution problem," she said, adding that same idea was proven effective in many countries like Korea and Japan.

Other members of the group include Sara Lee, Woo Rim Ahn, Kanata Omori, Gordon Coelho, and David Kim.

Third best project was the "Ecological, economical biodiesel."

According to Lorna Liban, science fair coordinator, taking part in a science fair project is a great learning experience because it involves the longest research paper the students must have written.

BOE urged to give 'expenditure authority' to Rota, Tinian principals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI of Board of Education has been urged to provide greater power to Rota and Tinian school principals by giving them the expenditure authority over their operational budgets.

This was the recommendation of the board's School Reform Committee, chaired by Galvin Deleon Guerrero, after enumerating the "concerns" existing at the neighboring islands' schools.

Deleon Guerrero, during Wednesday's special board meeting, noted that the usual "long process" for school documentations to the Public School System's central office is affecting the immediate delivery of services to the students.

"It was recommended that principals on Rota and Tinian should have expenditure authority for school operations throughout the year...It appears that processing expenditure requests through PSS central office consumes too much time and thereby jeopardizes school operations," he told the board.

The PSS education commissioner is assigned as the expenditure authority of the school's personnel and operations budget.

Though there was a previous try to transfer this power to school principals, this didn't pass the Legislature as recommended by the education board.

Deleon Guerrero said the recommendation was primarily initiated because of the "time factor."

In recent visits to these schools, the committee chairman disclosed that there are dangerous roof holes and water leaks at Sinapalo Elementary School that pose serious safety risks to students.

"It is our understanding that funds have been allocated to address this problem, but there has been a delay in processing this CIP project," Deleon Guerrero said, adding that the project must be expedited as quickly as possible to ensure the safety and welfare of the students at the school.

Deleon Guerrero also found out that there is only one functioning 66-passenger bus on Rota which is woefully inadequate for the estimated 519 students enrolled in Sinapalo,

Rota Junior High School, and Rota High School.

As an alternative, he added, students are transported around in PSS vans, which are not intended for such use.

"PSS and the BOE must explore ways to provide adequate buses on Rota," he added.

In his committee meetings with the schools' stakeholders, Deleon Guerrero said many of them believe that neither PSS nor Northern Marianas College have provided adequate vocational education.

"While PSS has a vocational education component to its curriculum, and while many classes and programs incorporated vocational education into lessons, PSS does not link these vocational education components with the broader component," the committee head informed the board.

He said except for a few schools, there is no comprehensive interface between PSS and the broader business/industrial community in the form of internships and apprenticeships.



One of the judges in the Marianas Baptist Academy's Science Fair Friday evaluates this entry which emerged as the first prize winner.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Residents' buying power weakened

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Residents' buying power weakened further during the first quarter of 2009 as the cost of living on the islands showed an annual increase of 5.8 percent, even as the Department of Commerce revised the consumer price index (CPI).

The new base period will be the fourth quarter of 2008.

Any increase in the CPI means a spike in the prices of most things CNMI residents spend their money on, including food, housing and utilities, transportation, apparel, medical care and education.

From 94.7 percentage points

in the first quarter of 2008, the CPI rose to 100.2 in the same period this year, latest data from Commerce's Central Statistics Division shows.

Housing and utilities, food and transportation showed the largest price increases in the first quarter. Prices of housing and utilities went up by 8.1 percent, while food costs rose by 6.7 percent.

In a statement, Commerce said the revised CPI has a number of significant improvements that will make it an even more accurate measure of price movement than ever before. It replaces a CPI that was used based on household expenditures on a 1997 survey.

A CPI is usually a country's most visible economic indicator

of inflation, or in some cases, deflation.

"Revising the CPI has taken four years, beginning with the CNMI's Household Income and Expenditure Survey initiated in April 2005," said Commerce, adding that the survey collected detailed data on how households spend their money.

The data was derived from over 800 questionnaires and diaries completed by households on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The samples were collected and keyed. A new item sample was selected and new item weights were calculated for the CPI.

The funding for this major project came from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, which has been trying to improve the statistics in the insular areas through its Statistical Enhancement Program.

Although many of the items were also in the old CPI, there were a number of new items added to the index based on the 2005 survey. The number of items priced quarterly increased from 113 items to 161 items. The item sample was chosen using probability methods that ensured that the most important items, in terms of average monthly household expenditures, were selected.

Nine major groups

The revised CPI continues to have nine major groups that conform to

the groups in the U.S. Consumer Price Index and with those of all of the other insular areas.

The nine groups are: food, alcoholic Beverages, housing, apparel, transportation, medical care, recreation, education and communication, and other goods and services.

In the first quarter of 2009, the prices for the "all items index" in the revised CPI averaged up 0.2 percent from the last quarter and 5.8 percent from a year ago.

Prices for alcoholic beverages, medical care and other goods and services led the quarterly increases—6.5, 2.8 and 1.7 percent—respectively. Partially offsetting those increases were declines in education and communication, 3.6 percent, with fractional decreases in the housing and apparel categories.

The year-to-year comparisons showed that prices for other goods and services rose 9.5 percent, with housing rising 8.1 percent and food increasing by 6.7 percent. Transportation prices also increased, rising 5.0 percent. Alcoholic beverages and medical care rose 4.4 and 3.0 percent, respectively, over the year.

Recreation costs declined over the last 12 months by 4 percent. This was followed by decreases in education and communication, down 2.9 percent and apparel, down 1.2 percent.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 27, 1999

OPA: Follow procurement rules

More than \$15 million in government money have either been wasted or lost in several irregular deals or pocketed by corrupt officials during the past administration, according to an annual report of the Office of the Public Auditor. But of the amount, only \$970,122 in overpayment or improper payment could be recovered, the report says. In the 1998 report sent to news agencies, Public Auditor Leo L. LaMotte says much of the audit and investigation by OPA showed that non-compliance to procurement regulations remained a major problem and has led to losses in significant amounts of public funds.

Tariff privilege needs protection: Legislators

Stunned by yet another attempt to amend the Covenant, legislators yesterday lashed out at a proposed legislation in the US Congress that would remove trade privileges granted the Northern Marianas, saying it will spell economic disaster for the island. They vowed to oppose the proposal sponsored by Senators Spencer Abraham (R-Michigan) and Ernest Fritz Holling (D-S. Carolina), including lobbying efforts in Washington to protect the interests of the commonwealth government. The measure is expected to be introduced this week. Likewise, local leaders tied the move to ongoing plan to establish free trade zones in the CNMI, noting that removal of the privileges provided under Headnote 3(a) of the Covenant will discourage potential foreign investors attracted by the quota-free, duty-free provisions.

April 27, 2000

Teno wants more cops

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday sought a full report on the ongoing investigation being conducted by the Department of Public Safety into the Easter Sunday jailbreak and the related protest staged by inmates at the Susupe prison. At the same time, he pledged to hire more police officers to beef up the current DPS force in a move to ease worries in the community on such incidents which have alarmed island residents. Mr. Tenorio met with Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram and other police officials to discuss ways on how to deal with the problems in the Division of Corrections following the escape of three convicts last Sunday.

Hotel occupancy taxes dip by \$1.7-M

The level of revenue generated by the CNMI government from tourism-related businesses continue to fall, with hotel occupancy tax dipping by \$1.7 million in 1999 from year ago, government records disclosed. An official report obtained from the Department of Finance showed tax collection from hotel occupancy dropped to \$6 million during the last Fiscal Year, compared with the figure recorded in 1998 at \$7.7 million. Quarterly collection of hotel occupancy tax fluctuated since the first three months of the Fiscal Year 1999 but was reported to have averaged at only \$1.5 million in a three-month period. Hotel occupancy tax started spiraling down in 1998 when government collection reached only \$7.7 million from the previous year's \$10.8 million.

April 27, 2001

NMI's smokers getting younger

The Department of Public Health underscored the need to enforce more stringent measures that would limit the access of the islands' youths to tobacco products amid findings that almost half of CNMI's young populace smoke. An estimated 10 percent of middle school students and 30 percent of high school students are current smokers, according to the findings of a study commissioned by the DPH. This, as nearly 55 percent and 85 percent of middle and high school students respectively admit to having tried cigarette.

CNMI hopes to get add'l funds for Compact-Impact

The Commonwealth is eyeing the possibility of launching a series of discussion with the Office of the Insular Affairs to secure additional federal reimbursement for the expenses incurred by the CNMI in hosting citizens of the Freely Associated States. Government officials are now preparing a plan of action that would entice the US government to allocate more funding to the CNMI, which has incurred over \$100 million in total costs since the implementation of the Compacts of Free Association. The Commonwealth government wants a bigger Compact-Impact appropriation for the next financial year, considering the meager \$500,000 allotment set aside by the administration of President George W. Bush for the CNMI in his Fiscal Year 2002 budget proposal.


Zoning Office NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In our continued efforts to provide efficient and more improved services to the public, our office will be implementing an adjusted schedule of office operation on the following dates:


- **April 29th, April 30th, and May 1st, 2009 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday):** Office doors will be closed for permit processing
- **May 4th thru May 8th, 2009**
7:30am to 12:00pm - Office doors will open for servicing
12:00pm to 4:30pm - Office doors will close for processing

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
Use of Homeless Prevention Funds
(This advertisement is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)


The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the amendment of the Commonwealth's Consolidated Plan for Program Years 2005-2009. The amendment provides the inclusion of the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) which will be made available to the Commonwealth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The total HPRP allocation is \$589,165.00. Intended use of the NSP grant is described as follows:

Priority	Activity Type: Homeless Prevention	Use of Funds
Financial Assistance	Financial assistance includes the following activities: short-term rental assistance, medium-term rental assistance, security deposits, utility deposits, utility payments, moving costs assistance, and motel or hotel vouchers.	\$459,707.00
Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services	Housing and stabilization services include the following activities as detailed in the HPRP Notice: case management, outreach, housing search and placement, legal services, mediation and credit repair.	\$50,000.00
Data Collection and Evaluation	Data collection and evaluation include costs associated with operating HUD-approved homeless management information systems for purposes of collecting unduplicated counts of homeless persons and analyzing patterns of use of HPRP funds.	\$50,000.00
Administrative Costs	Program and Administrative Costs	Up to 5% of total HPRP funds: \$29,458.00


The Amended plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. NMHC is inviting the public to comment on the proposed use of funds. Written comments should be submitted **no later than 4:30 p.m., May 4, 2009 at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.**

NMHC does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to or treatment or employment its programs or activities. NMHC has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Section 504, the ADA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 504 regulations implemented by the EEOC and the Department of Justice. If you should require any additional information, please contact Ms. Jeannie P. Mafnas, NMHC's Planner/Grant Writer at 234-6866/7689.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director



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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes (April 9, 2009)
- EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- CORRESPONDENCES**
- COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - Financial Affairs Committee
 - Airport Facilities Committee
 - Seaport Facilities Committee
 - Personnel Affairs Committee
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
- OLD BUSINESS**
NONE.
- NEW BUSINESS**
 - Board Commemorative Resolution 09-001 (Bond Accounts to TCD)
 - Signatory Authority of Bank Accounts
 - Amendment to Bylaws, Article V, Section 8
- MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
- PUBLIC COMMENT**
- ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, PE.
Executive Director

April 24, 2009

2009 MMAC meeting set at Hyatt

The 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding an important meeting tomorrow, April 28, 5:30pm in the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room.

All committee members are encouraged to attend as vital information will be discussed. Subcommittee reports will be due.

The 2009 MMAC team captains meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 5:30pm in the Hyatt Regency's Chamolinian Room. All team captains or their representatives are encouraged to attend as important information will be discussed and

disseminated.

The 2009 MMAC Committee is reminding the entire community that the 2009 MMAC will be held on May 22-23 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. Fun games, live entertainment, and great food and drinks will be available from 6pm to 6am to help raise funds for the battle against cancer. There will also be a cancer information booth available to the public.

All cancer survivors or anyone currently undergoing cancer treatment are invited to attend the traditional dinner that

night held in honor of all cancer survivors in the CNMI.

Contact Nora Sablan at 235-0994 or via email at norasablan@gmail.com for more information. All information remains strictly confidential.

The confirmed 2009 MMAC title sponsors include IT&E, Delta/Northwest Airlines, Bank of Guam and Take Care/FHP. Confirmed major sponsors include Younis Arts Studio, Saipan Mayor's Office, Bank of Saipan and Docomo Pacific. All other businesses, companies or corporations interested in supporting the battle against

cancer in any way possible are encouraged to contact Frankie Eliptico at fme99@hotmail.com

for more information.

The 2009 MMAC committee members include David Rosario, Janine Nogis, Catherine Attao, Jojo Camacho, Fernando Benavente, Reina Camacho, Chris A. Concepcion, Kim A.

Concepcion, Frankie Eliptico, Dr. Jack Hardy, Jeannie Mafnas, Donald Manalo, Joanne Ogo, Polly Omechelang, Alex Sablan, Nora Sablan, Evonne Sablan, Jocelyn Songsong, John Tagabuel, and Tara White. **(PR)**

DOUBLE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Birthday greeting go our to our wonderful parents Ramon (48th) and Dalia (50th) Agulto "Sang." May God continue to bless you both on our special day. We love and miss you Mom and Dad. Enjoy your birthdays! With much love, hugs and kisses from miles away—B.J., Jenny, and kids and Fred and Cherrie Ann and Ramon Jr.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Eloisa Agustin is celebrating her birthday today, April 27. Birthday greeting coming from your Ernst & Young family.



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NMHC

REVISED NOTICE TO THE BANKS/LENDING INSTITUTIONS

Solicitation for Listing and Purchase of Bank-Owned Abandoned and/or Foreclosed Homes/Residential Properties with Marketable Title
(Title Marketability to be solely determined by NMHC).

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds).

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Board of Directors, is seeking to purchase five properties with \$364,162 of bank-owned Abandoned and/or Foreclosed Homes/Residential Properties with Marketable Title (title marketability to be solely determined by NMHC) located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Preference will be given to the banks/lending institutions, who upon NMHC's acquisition and rehabilitation of properties, willing to finance credit-worthy borrowers purchasing the property from NMHC.

According to HUD's definition, a home is "abandoned" when mortgage or tax foreclosure proceedings have been initiated for that property, no mortgage or tax payments have been made by the property owner for at least 90 days AND the property has been vacant for at least 90 days. Moreover, a property has been "foreclosed upon" at the point that, under state or local law, the mortgage or tax foreclosure is complete. HUD will generally not consider a foreclosure to be complete until after the title for the property has been transferred from the former homeowner under some type foreclosure proceeding or transfer in lieu of foreclosure, in accordance with state or local law.

NMHC will be using funds allocated through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The NSP will provide emergency assistance to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within their communities. The NSP provides grants to every state and certain local communities to purchase foreclosed or abandoned homes and to rehabilitate, resell, or redevelop these homes in order to stabilize neighborhoods and stem the decline of home values of neighboring homes. The program is authorized under Title III of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. (<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/neighborhoodspg/>)

- NMHC is seeking for a listing and purchase(s) from the bank as to how many abandoned and/or foreclosed homes/residential properties they are able to sell for \$364,162.
- NMHC will acquire the bank-owned abandoned and/or foreclosed homes/residential properties at 70% of its appraised value.
- As part of the transaction, it is NMHC's desire to coordinate with the banks, upon NMHC's completed rehabilitation of the properties, to resell to low/moderate/middle income families as defined by HUD's 2009 Adjusted Home Income Limits.
- Pursuant to NSP requirements, NMHC will ensure that 25%, or \$91,040.00, of the total Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds (\$364,162.00) be made available to qualified borrowers with an income less than 50% of area median income in order to finance individuals whose income is between 50%-120% of area median income.

For the properties the banks propose to sell to NMHC, the bank shall include the following information:

- o Appraisal value of bank-owned foreclosed and/or abandoned homes/residential properties. (Appraisal report must be within 6 months of acquisition by NMHC)
- o Location (by village) of bank-owned foreclosed and/or abandoned homes/residential properties
- o Detailed description of bank-owned foreclosed and/or abandoned homes/residential properties, including photographs of the homes/residential properties
- o Date the foreclosed/abandoned home/residential property was built
- o Date of the foreclosure
- o Principal amount owed for the foreclosed/abandoned home or residential property
- o Compounded interest owed until the date the bank discontinued charging interest
- The listing provided by the bank must adhere to the following format:
 - o Font style: Times New Roman, 12 point font, black color ink
 - o Heading: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota (islands)
 - o Subheadings: Villages, in alphabetical order

Interested banks/lending institutions must bring the complete listing to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. The NMHC will be conducting a meeting with the banks at the aforementioned time and date to address any questions and concerns. Details of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program will also be provided at the meeting.

Preference will be given to the banks/lending institutions, who upon NMHC's acquisition and rehabilitation of properties, willing to finance credit-worthy borrowers purchasing the property from NMHC.

/s/
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director



NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. on the application of PTI Services, Inc., Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed expansion and operation of its call center, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Eyes wide shutting

Over the past two weeks, the world has been inundated with specifics about the abuse of terrorism suspects during the Bush administration: repeated episodes of waterboarding, snarling dogs, forced nudity, severe sleep deprivation, extended confinement in small, dark boxes.

Yet it is clear from a recently released and well-documented report by the Senate Armed Services Committee that such abuses were not committed by rogue service members or CIA agents who took matters into their own hands. The extreme interrogation methods were, according to the report, sought out and authorized by administration officials at the highest levels, including then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. The report also documents episode after episode in which military and civilian personnel raised red flags about the legality and efficacy of applying techniques to terrorism suspects that were meant only to help train U.S. service members to withstand such horrors if captured by thugs. The use of such techniques against detainees, they argued, would more than likely produce false confessions and toughen up detainees to resist cooperating in the future.

Such warnings were routinely ignored, yet it is gratifying to know that men and women from the various branches of the armed services stuck their necks out in defense of the rule of law and common decency. The FBI should also be commended for refusing to participate in these dishonorable acts.

Some of those singled out by the Armed Services Committee report include:

■ Maj. Carrie Ricci and Maj. Nathan Hoepner of the Army. Maj. Ricci, a lawyer, told superiors that the harsh interrogation techniques were barred by the Geneva Conventions; Maj. Hoepner wrote in an e-mail objecting to an officer's support of enhanced interrogations: "We need to take a deep breath and remember who we are . . . We are American soldiers, heirs of a long tradition of staying on the high ground. We need to stay there."

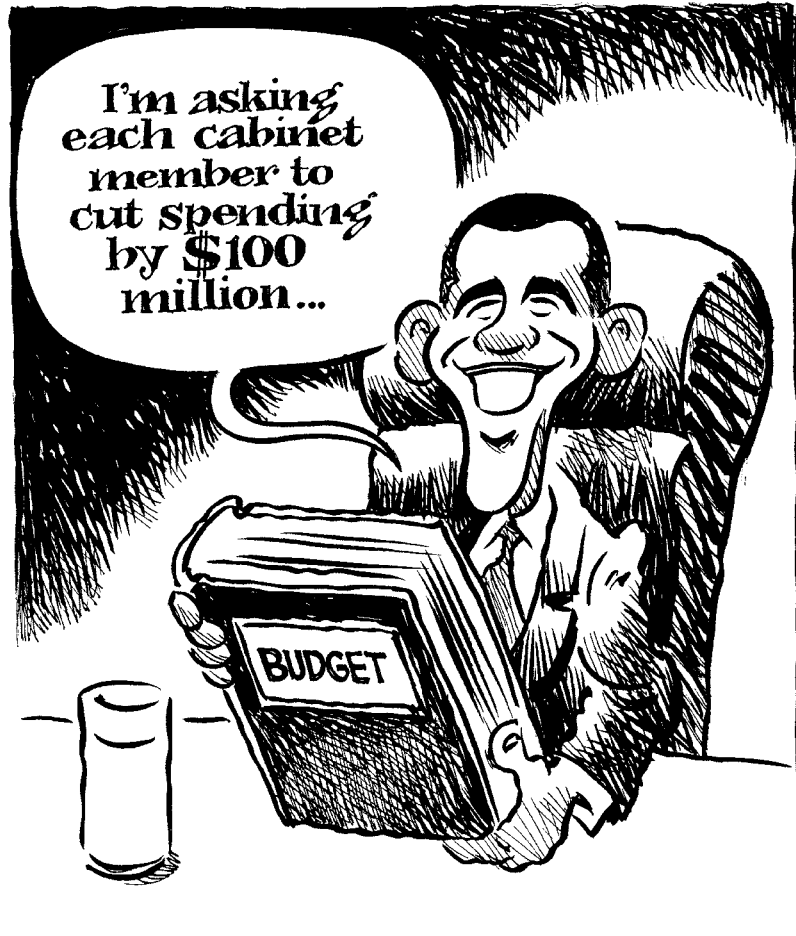
■ Navy Capt. Daniel Donovan, a military lawyer, who, in an e-mail to superior officers, objected to the use of harsh techniques for prisoners in Iraq: "(Some interrogators) will swear that the 'water board' does not actually physically harm subjects if it is administered by properly trained . . . instructors, under close supervision, etc. . . . I fail to see how anyone can reasonably say that employing such techniques against those in our custody is worthy of the United States, no matter how much we may need the information."

■ Air Force Col. Steven Kleinman, who intervened to stop an interrogation in which a detainee was subjected to prolonged kneeling and was slapped after answering every question.

■ Marine Lt. Col. Stuart Couch, a military prosecutor who refused to participate in cases after learning about detainee abuse.

Time and time again, civilians and political leaders pressed service members to use tougher, harsher and in some instances almost certainly illegal methods. Time and time again, the men and women in uniform—those who put their lives on the line for this country—were the ones who pushed back. It's a shame that so many of the civilians in the Bush administration failed to heed their advice.

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Change
you can
believe in...

Saipan: Then and now

Post-war economic history in a nutshell

First of a four-part series

From the Trust Territory period to U.S. affiliation

I suspect there are many people new to the islands along with some college students here and abroad who have little knowledge of the area's relatively recent and turbulent economic history—not having lived it. The following essays present some of the highlights in somewhat abbreviated form.

That the islands have recently experienced both "boom" and "bust" over a rather short span of development since their affiliation with the United States, I do believe that the relationship assures—if for no other reason—that the U.S. cannot afford the embarrassment of having a third world economy under the American flag. Certainly not if it is to continue to offer the American model as an example for many underdeveloped economies to emulate.

Since the end of World War II the United States has spent untold billions of dollars in foreign economic aid in dozens upon dozens of countries throughout the globe in an effort to assist in lifting them from the depths of poverty. In some respects that was what the Cold War was about. I dare say that none have been the recipient of funds anywhere near the amount the United States has provided the Northern Mariana Islands from the period of the '70s when the area was still under the jurisdiction of the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands up to the present.

I doubt if anyone knows for certain the total dollar amount of the assistance made available to the NMI in a variety of forms either through the Covenant Agreement or direct financial monetary flows directly from various U.S. government departments as non cash assistance programs.

The islands have benefited from a myriad of social and economic programs made available by the U.S. government such as: food stamps; medical care provided virtually free of charge from the U. S. National Health Service; Medicaid and Medicare;

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.



rent subsidies; low-cost housing for the disadvantaged; loans for small businesses and higher education; agricultural services; children's Headstart programs; Social Security, and many more programs and services of the various departments of the U.S. government. Add to the above the use of the U.S. Postal System with its cooperative agreements among the nations of the world; the benefits which accrue from drug enforcement capabilities and life-saving search and rescue activities of the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard. The weather service and typhoon warning systems, typhoon damage relief from a variety of agencies; diplomatic protection when traveling in foreign lands, and on and on—all not even pro-rated calculated and included in the direct financial support provided the NMI.

I think I'm probably as qualified as anyone to estimate the total financial contribution flowing to the NMI since 1970 when I first documented the need for a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Congress for the island's Economic Development Loan Fund (EDLF) a portion of which was later morphed into the Commonwealth Development Authority. From that time until the present I estimate that the islands have probably received almost one billion dollars in financial assistance from U.S. taxpayers beyond that provided by Covenant agreements.

That the islands have not been able to sustain a vibrant, self-suffi-

See POST on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Pulsing America's heartbeat on ground zero

I lugged a picture of the NYC skyline with the twin towers that served as a décor piece in my SVES 6th grade class to the home of NYC friends in this week's "mission of mercy" I am undertaking to the Big Apple. Traversing the Battery tunnel to my client in Brooklyn from the south end of Manhattan, my host drove us through the gaping big hole of the scar of 9/11 that has become during the reign of GWB as the ground zero of the heartbeat of America.

What has since become a controversial memorial edifice to the shock-filled awakening of the American psyche, with the thousand submissions of design entries to CNN and 300 to the Spark Award Design group, for the rehabilitation of the tragic grounds that snuffed the lives of more than 3,000 Americans, has city plans sadly mired in the ugly morass of political wrangling and posturing.

Tripping down this April to salvage a four-year old marriage of a current Chinese Saipan resident to an ailing Yankee who wooed her in China but is now confined to a Care home on Coney Island, reality intruded to dictate that the hour is long past the moment of rekindling the covenant of yesterday's matrimony, particularly as Uncle Sam refused recognition of the coupling, rendering the situation now to be best left as a relic of the past with the concerned parties better off leaving previous decisions behind and moving on.

The gentleman's health deteriorated to incompetence and incapacity, and the lady's hopes and dreams for herself and her son will now have to be lived without the promise of the legal membership to the American dream.

This personal heart-rending tragedy soon to grace a divorce court is the couple's ground zero waiting to be separately reborn, and the face of this stark reality to this writer, a sociological voyeur of the nation's social affairs, looms as a footnote to the larger question of the state of America's ground zero.

Until 9/11, ground zero to me, and I suspect, to many, was formally the U.S. Congress grounds in Washington, D.C., the designated km 1 in the nation's Interstate Highway system, and the symbol of the nation's commitment to representative democracy and guided deliberations.

Attempts were made earlier during Jimmy Carter's term in the

White House when tradition of the Town Meeting was highlighted in the nation's bicentennial celebration, but the republican forces prevailed over the democratic impetus, and town meetings deteriorated as a political format for campaigners to meet their constituency without making the audience feel they were being preached at.

The imperial and often rapacious military-industrial complex that Ike Eisenhower warned us about, in its attempt to secure the fossil fuel supply to undergird the bloated but profitable consumerism of the American Empire, latched on to 9/11 as an occasion to foist a culture of belligerence and a climate of fear against the 'infidel' of its choosing. Bush's foreign policy shadowed by biblical Armageddon, and bolstered by the rhetoric of preemptive defense v. the Axis of Evil, has made ground zero of the 9/11 tragedy the symbol of national anxiety, societal dysfunction, and neurotic suspicion over the foreign, the alien, the unfamiliar and the unknown.

Thus, in the current ascendancy of the audacity of hope and the tectonic shifting occurring in the glocal psyche from Empire to Eco-Democracy, incidence of hate crimes have doubled and the emergence of hate groups has become more prominent. An alarming increase in death threats to the Obama family has now become a national security concern. Conversely, community building and informal sunrise/sunset conversations in small scales and at low decibels, is emerging across the glocal landscape.

Moving from Manhattan's Battery to the Bowery district, skewing the picture of America's ground zero as the gaping hole of previously mangled steel and collapsed concrete and cement, the vitality of Times Square nudged my curiosity.

In 1968, I heard the double tragic news of Robert Kennedy's assassination at a hotel on 44th St., and the trouncing of Eugene McCarthy who I was rooting for in the California Democratic primary. Notorious 42nd St. then was a place where one did not casually venture out alone even before sunset unless one was anonymously in search of sleazy adventure and chemically-induced high.

Today, the breadth and length of 42nd St., from the United Nations on the east end to the Chinese Consulate at the corner on 12th Ave., a few blocks north of the architecturally I.M. Pei-famed Jacob Javits Convention Center, is a long stretch of American globaliza-

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



tion. Applebees sits across where Kenichi's *udon* is offered, and Villa's *tacos* are only a few doors down where Nikos' *gyros* are sumptuously served. Kemala's *masalas* compete with Francois' *croissants* around the Rockefeller Center.

The Port Authority's bus terminal at the corner of 8th Ave. and 42nd St. offers DFS Galleria type of ride-and-shop convenience, not to mention ground connection to the three international airports. Grand Central Station on 5th Ave. is, of course, the grand Dame of all railroad stations in the world. The crossroads along 42nd St. are a more authentic and accurate symbol of ground zero urban America.

A possible involvement in a China program of the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church headquartered at Riverside Dr., made me apply for Chinese visa at their office on the west end of 42nd, and proceeded to traverse the west-east continuum to the National Episcopal Office Center on 2nd Ave. where Fr. Fred Vergara (no relation) conducts the noon Mass for the *episcopoi*. On to the environs of the heavily guarded UN Mission facilities by the East River and a day's jaunt across this street shows the vibrancy of the American soul more than the despair and fear-laden ambience of the former Twin Towers of NYC.

As dusk descends on this midtown area of live theatres, the promise of the secular city heralded half a century earlier in the cutting edge of the nation's social thinking might not be too far off the mark, and for those seeking for a ground zero of the American promise, it is not in the memory of the Twin Towers but in the revised version of Midtown Manhattan, USA.

Letter to the Editor

No great mystery or conspiracy here

In response to recent publicity regarding my contract with the Commonwealth, I would like to emphasize the following:

1. I do not receive any compensation or salary for my professional services to the Commonwealth as Special Legal Counsel to the Governor. I submit no billing statements reflecting the hours that I work on identified Commonwealth matters. This is the same basis on which I worked for former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio during 1998-99.

2. I do receive reimbursement for documented expenses that I incur on a monthly basis in my capacity as Special Counsel. There is a ceiling of \$12,000 for each three-month period. Under the contract I can seek reimbursement for only one trip to and from the CNMI

during the quarter (not to exceed \$3,000), monthly car rental (not to exceed \$1000), and no more than 60 days of \$100 per diem during each quarter that I live in the Commonwealth.

3. In each of the three calendar years of 2006, 2007, and 2008, my total reimbursements for the year have been less than the authorized amount of \$48,000 per year. I do not seek reimbursements for expenses incurred while I work for the CNMI in Washington, D.C. During the last two months of 2008 and the first two months of 2009, I was working for the Commonwealth in Washington on several important matters and received no compensation of any kind.

There is no great mystery or conspiracy here. My wife and I have a long-standing commitment to this Commonwealth. We have worked for more than 30 years with hundreds of Commonwealth officials and residents. We have many friends here, and are pleased to provide our services without any charge for legal fees.. We are proud of our record of achievement in the Commonwealth, and anticipate that we will continue to enjoy our work with the people of this community in the years ahead.

Howard P. Willens

Via e-mail

POST

From Page 10

cient, continuous economy in view of the huge expenditures made available to assist in this endeavor is unfortunate. Of course, many outside forces have had a serious impact upon the economy most of which have been beyond the control of the Commonwealth. It is entirely possible that the islands will forever be subject to the economic ebb and flow of economic tides periodically rising and falling as they effect the fortunes of island businesses and residents alike. Experience tells us these should be anticipated and appropriate contingency plans prepared, "rainy day" emergency funds you might say.

There is probably no other area under the American flag with a more fragile economy susceptible to the negative influences of outside forces than the Mariana Islands. The health of their economies are influenced by many external forces beyond their control of which a partial list includes, but not limited to: U.S. inflation rates magnified in the islands as a result of increase transportation costs; volatile fuel costs; fluctuating foreign currency exchange rates related to the U.S. dollar; political and terrorist attacks against the nation at large will often discourage tourists from Asia as will the area's communicable diseases such as SCARS, Asian Flu, etc. and the high cost of living largely resulting from the time and cost of transporting goods and supplies great distances to the islands. Saipan is 5,300 nautical miles from San Francisco—3,200 n.mi. from Honolulu.

Following the Covenant agreement It was the mid-'80s which could be considered the "take-off" point for the economic "boom"

which was to follow. Two serendipitous events occurred almost simultaneously both propelled by events far beyond the control of the NMI to influence—and both somewhat coincidental in an odd way probably never again to be repeated.

The first was the recognition by a number of garment manufacturers involved in "cut-and-sew operations" that they could manufacture their products in the CNMI and—as permitted by the U.S. Custom regulation known as of Headnote 3 (a)—export their goods to the huge United States domestic market duty free. This would ultimately result in more than 34 manufacturers by 1997 employing some 15,700 nonresident aliens and several hundred local workers.

The second event also occurred in 1986 at the Plaza Accords in New York when the United States as a result of huge trade deficits and other factors devalued the dollar in relation to the Japanese yen and other currencies.

By the end of 1987 the dollar had fallen by 54 percent against the yen. This had the effect of doubling the size of the Japanese economy almost overnight and was the "kick-off" for massive amounts of Japanese investment in the NMI's tourism and other sectors soon resulting in tremendous increases in Japanese visitor arrivals. The islands had never seen anything like it and likely never will again.

It was during this period that one might be struck by a strange irony—United States government expenditures within the Northern Marianas aside—large private American investment was somewhat conspicuous by its absence in the islands. It is something of a paradox that, at least for a period of time in the '80s, it was largely private capital from a defeated former adversary rather than investment of any magnitude from the victor's private sector that resulted

in the initial reconstruction of Saipan's economy.

The only U.S. investment at the time was made by Guam's Bob and Ken Jones in Saipan's Royal Taga Hotel and a cattle ranch on Tinian along with several other business investment endeavors.

Considering that by the early '80s the prewar Japanese presence in the islands had, for the most part, extended for a period of only 30 years (1914 to 1944), as compared to more than the equivalent of four decades by 1986 for that of America. It was somewhat surprising that the geographic and economic ties between the islands and Japan were reformed so vigorously in the decade of the eighties.

Surprising, until one considers the strong ancestral relationship Japan has with the islands. A relationship which should have been nurtured all along—and to some extent was, but I fear was also taken for granted particularly in later years as witnessed by the "bail-out" of many Japanese investors in recent years. More about the U.S. involvement next.






To be continued.

Editor's Note: Bill Stewart is a former senior economist for the NMI and has privately authored several books including: "Saipan In Flames", a WW II account; the "Business Reference and Investment Guide to the CNMI" and several hundred thousand tourist and historical maps of Saipan, Tinian and Rota distributed free by MVA and island businesses. His other investment promotional materials published by the government include: "Introducing the Northern Mariana Islands - An American Doorstep to Asia"; and "Tourism Investment Opportunities in the NMI."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

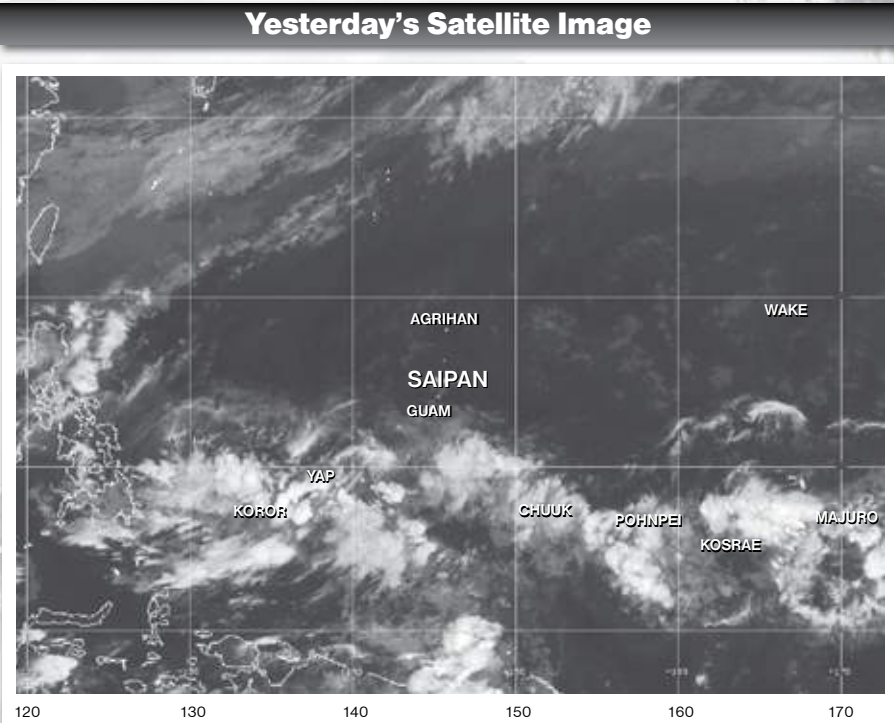
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲83 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲82 ▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼81
Majuro	Showers	▲83 ▼78

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼60
Beijing	Sunny	▲76 ▼56
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼69
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲81 ▼70
London	Rain	▲59 ▼48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲68 ▼54
Manila	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲57 ▼48
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼72
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼61
Osaka	Showers	▲57 ▼48
Paris	Showers	▲63 ▼50
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▼48
Rome	Showers	▲74 ▼55
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼38
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲63 ▼42
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▼47
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲87 ▼59

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
3:06 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
8:05 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
3:23 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
10:26 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:15AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 7N130E to Koror to end at EQ152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located along the trough axis within 120 miles of a line from 10N130E to 2N145E. A cold front stretches southwestward from 25N150E to beyond 130E at 21N. Cloudiness and scattered light showers can be found along and up to 200 miles northwest of the front. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk or within 80 miles of a line arcing from 8N146E to 7N151E to 5N155E. A surface trough stretches southeastward from 4N161E to EQ165E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Kosrae or between 1N and 7N from 160E to 164E. Trade-wind convergence is also producing numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Kwajalein and Majuro within 125 miles of a line from 3N167E and 4N180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:56 AM	6:34 PM	Today	7:17 AM	8:48 PM
Tuesday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM	Tuesday	8:17 AM	9:52 PM
Wednesday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM	Wednesday	9:21 AM	10:53 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM	Thursday	10:25 AM	11:49 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM	Friday	11:28 AM	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan		
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan		
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am 1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am	4:00am 5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am	11:10am Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan		
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita			Narita-Guam		
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm Daily	NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm Daily	NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan		
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am 1,4,6	OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
Guam-Osaka			Osaka-Guam		
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm Daily	NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan		
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya			Nagoya-Guam		
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon			Incheon-Saipan		
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1 7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka	OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan		
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai			Shanghai-Saipan		
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam			Guam-Rota		
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau			Palau-Guam		
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm 1,7	CO 954	2:30am	5:25am 1,2
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm 3,5	CO 892	2:35am	5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila			Manila-Palau		
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm 3,5	CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam		
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			Manila-Nagoya		
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm Daily	NW 72	6:30am	11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			Hongkong-Incheon		
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm Daily	OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm Daily	OZ 7183	12:45am	4:05am 1,4,6
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm 5,7	OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila			Manila-Narita		
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm Daily	NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE				
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian				
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**				
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily	
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily	
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily	
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily	
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily	
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily	
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily	
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily	
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily	
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily	
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily	
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily	
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily	

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

28th Flame Tree Arts Festival



CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Inatuas Cultural dancers of Saipan perform traditional Chamorro dances at the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center during the weekend. The CNMI's biggest cultural event drew thousands of people from Thursday night to Sunday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



ALL TOGETHER NOW

Members of the Rasan Acho Latte of Guam in an impromptu performance during the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center, which drew thousands of people from Thursday night to Sunday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



ISLAND DANCE

Members of the Kula Natibu Dance Squad of Guam perform a traditional island dance at the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center during the weekend.



RHYTHM, DANCE AND COLORS

Visiting performers from Korea in their colorful costumes awe the crowd with their rendition of a traditional farmers' dance after a good harvest at the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center during the weekend. The CNMI's biggest cultural event's theme this year is "Uniting Rainbows of Traditions and Cultures."



GUAM PARTICIPANTS

Two male members of the Kula Natibu Dance Squad of Guam perform a traditional island dance at the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center during the weekend.



STARTING THEM YOUNG

Children of different races comfortably gather in front of the stage to watch the performances at the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center during the weekend.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



ARTS AND CRAFTS

A woman checks out the necklaces on sale in one of the 55 traditional craft and visual art booths at the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center during the weekend.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



HUMAN CANVASS

A child with a face paint looks at the camera during the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center during the weekend.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



HEAR YE

A member of Falun Gong or Falun Dafa shows one of the paintings on display at the group's booth during the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center during the weekend.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



SHELL CARS

Shell Marianas gave away Ferari car models for everyone willing to sign up at their both during the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Business

IMF head says it will sell bonds to raise funds

WASHINGTON (AP)—The International Monetary Fund will sell bonds as a way to raise funds to lend to struggling nations, the head of the organization said Saturday, in a victory for developing countries.

Emerging economies such as China, Brazil and India pushed for the move as an alternative to providing longer-term loans to the IMF. Those countries want a greater voice in the institution before providing additional resources.

IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn said China and other countries have expressed interest in purchasing the bonds. The IMF has never issued bonds before, although the idea was explored in the 1980s.

The move, announced after the IMF's annual spring meeting, indicates the world's leading economies are having difficulty following through on a pledge made in London April 2 to boost an IMF emergency lending facility by \$500 billion. The bonds will contribute toward that goal but will provide shorter-term financing than the loans that Japan, the European Union and the United States have promised.

The Group of 20 nations, which includes wealthy and developing countries, pledged in London to provide a total of \$1.1 trillion to the IMF and other international lending institutions.

"The major emerging markets have made it clear that they ... will no longer



U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner smiles as he meets with Western Hemisphere ministers during a roundtable discussion at the U.S. Treasury Department in Washington Saturday, April 25, 2009.

ger be pushed around by the advanced economies," said Eswar Prasad, an economics professor at Cornell University and former IMF official. While "the

net effect" on IMF resources of loans or bond sales is the same, Prasad said, "the symbolic difference between these two types of contributions is huge."

Homebuyers hope to time the bottom

By J.W. ELPHINSTONE
AP REAL ESTATE WRITER

With white tin ceilings, original woodwork, bay windows, and a \$699,000 price tag, the two-bedroom apartment at 719 Carroll St. in Brooklyn would have been snatched up in a New York minute a couple of years ago.

Instead, it's been on the market for more than two months. On a recent spring weekend 14 buyers came through, and still no bids.

"We're in the early stages of the search," said Joanna Brett, 33, as she checked out the apartment with Sarah Madigan. "We've been looking on and off for six months."

Personal fortunes riding on the fate of GM's debt

GROSSE ILE, Mich. (AP)—Retired Chrysler LLC project manager Clifford St. Pierre and his wife Patricia bought \$200,000 in General Motors Corp. notes three years ago, thinking it was a sound way to finance their retirement.

The 10-year securities carry a 7.2 percent interest rate and what they viewed as an almost bulletproof yearly payout of more than \$14,000. "We made a decision to buy bonds in the largest manufacturer in the world," he said from his home on Grosse Ile, an island in the Detroit River about 25 miles south of GM's headquarters.

Their next semiannual payment is due in July, but St. Pierre, 70, now spends his free time scouring news reports, trying to figure out whether that check will ever be in the mail.

His biggest fear is that he'll lose most—if not all—of his original investment if a debt-for-equity swap

Welcome to the spring selling season.

The number of house hunters out this spring is an encouraging sign that the real estate market is beginning to turn around. There's just one problem—a lot of them are in no hurry to buy, according to interviews with dozens of shoppers at open houses last weekend.

The market's turning point will be tough to predict, because it will be gradual and obscured by conflicting signs like recent housing reports that showed sales of previously occupied homes fell 3 percent from February to March, while new home sales seemed to have bottomed out.

Even more puzzling for homebuyers, economists expect sales volumes to

for GM shares that's being talked about happens.

A group of institutional investors that includes Fidelity and John Hancock formed a committee to negotiate terms of such an exchange with GM, which is seeking to slash its debt and make other cuts to stave off bankruptcy and receive more federal aid.

The parties haven't held formal talks since late March, and in the meantime the value of the unsecured notes similar to those bought by the St. Pierres continue to slide. They now trade on the secondary market for about 9 cents on the dollar, down from close to 90 cents a year ago.

Although large investors hold the bulk of GM's \$28 billion of unsecured debt, about \$5 billion to \$6 billion of that debt is held by individuals like the St. Pierres who are finding that they have little say in, or knowledge

recover at least six months before home prices stabilize.

"Prices will continue to fall sharply this spring and summer and will stabilize at year's end," said Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Economy.com.

In March, the median price for a new home dropped 12 percent from a year ago to \$201,400, and the price tag for a previously owned home also fell 12 percent to \$168,200.

The real estate crisis, fueled by reckless lending and borrowing from 2001 through 2006, triggered not only the U.S. recession but also a global financial meltdown. And the nascent signs of recovery in the housing market could be short-lived if employers continue to lay off staff in bulk.

of, the negotiations.

"I have to believe the committee is doing what they can to get the best possible deal," St. Pierre said. But he worries that the larger investors will eventually agree to accept a big haircut and move on, leaving he and his wife facing the prospect of getting only pennies on the dollar—or just equity in a new GM, as the government's auto task force has suggested. That would wipe out 80 percent of their total retirement savings.

GM has been surviving on \$15.4 billion in loans from the Treasury Department and would get more if it can satisfy the government with its restructuring efforts. Although GM also needs concessions from the United Auto Workers union to qualify for the money, President Barack Obama has said further government support depends on GM substantially cutting its debt load.

IMF relevant again, will big plans work?

ANALYSIS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Not long ago the International Monetary Fund seemed headed for relic status. Now it's once more flying high, rolling out ambitious plans to blanket an economically distressed world in dollars. Even grander designs are on the drawing board.

Yet the money might not cover the job and those lofty plans might never get approved.

Failure would carry a heavy political price because the Group of 20 countries have made the lending agency the linchpin in their efforts to combat the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

Finance ministers from those nations met on Friday to hammer out details of the \$1.1 trillion plan that President Barack Obama and his G-20 counterparts announced at their recent summit in London.

Some parts are proving elusive.

Major developing nations—Brazil, Russia, India and China, for example—are balking at providing their contributions to a \$500 billion IMF emergency loan program under the original proposal outlined by the United States and Europe.

World finance officials meeting through the weekend near the White House hoped for a resolution soon. An approach pushed by China and gaining momentum calls for the IMF

to sell bonds that developing nations would buy, rather than go the traditional loan route.

Even with a deal, however, it's not clear that the IMF's pool will have enough to jump-start the economy.

The IMF estimates that before the downturn bottoms out, the agency could provide around \$187 billion to recession-battered nations. That would dwarf the \$86 billion during the 1997-98 Asian crisis, which leveled countries from Thailand to Russia and Argentina.

The projected lending spree is quite a change from a year ago, when the IMF appeared headed to irrelevance. The long global boom meant countries were coming much less often, hat in hand, seeking assistance.

The IMF was scrambling to pay its bills and trim down. Its major source of income, loan repayments, had fallen sharply.

Today the agency is expanding again, approving loans to a string of countries. It's not clear whether the boost in resources will be enough.

The key is whether the broken banking systems in the United States and elsewhere can be repaired quickly enough so normal lending can resume to consumers and businesses. This lending is needed to spur an economic rebound in industrial countries, which leads to increased demand for developing nations' exports.

Tentative deal between Chrysler and Canada union

TORONTO (AP)—Chrysler and the Canadian government had told Canadian Auto Workers they wanted concessions that would make the automaker's labor costs competitive with that of non-unionized Toyota in Canada.

On Friday night they got what they asked for as Chrysler and union negotiators reached a tentative labor agreement, CAW President Ken Lewenza said.

The deal would save Chrysler about \$240 million Canadian (\$198 million) a year, Lewenza said. Labor and management said the cuts amounted to the \$19 an hour in savings the company was seeking.

"This agreement meets the benchmark that was set by the federal government to guide our bargaining," Lewenza said. He said the deal left base wages and pensions untouched though.

Chrysler has until April 30 to reach deals with its unions in Canada and the U.S. and it must cement a technology sharing alliance with Fiat SpA. It also needs to provide a restructuring plan to governments in both countries that will enable it to qualify for government loans to keep it afloat.

A Chrysler official, who was briefed on the contract, said the deal eliminates Christmas bonuses, semiprivate room hospital coverage, certain drug fees and a one time vacation buyout of \$3,500. It also reduces break times and vacation time. The official did not want to be identified because the membership hadn't been notified of the proposals yet.

Chrysler employs 8,500 Canadian

Auto Workers. A ratification vote is scheduled this weekend at Chrysler's three Ontario plants.

Lewenza said Chrysler told him the deal could be a significant factor in Chrysler's efforts to avoid a bankruptcy filing. He said even if Chrysler does declare bankruptcy in the U.S. and Canada, the deal should hold up.

"We are very confident that our workers won't be asked to give more," Lewenza said.

Chrysler President Tom LaSorda and Al Iacobelli, Chrysler's chief bargainer and Vice President of Employee Relations, said in statements that they appreciated the concessions made by the CAW.

"The forthright discussions and final decisions made by the CAW not only benefit the Canadian represented employees, but help to ensure the Company's future competitiveness," Iacobelli said. "The tentative agreement also helps move the Company one step closer to a partnership with Fiat SpA."

The Canadian government and Ontario provincial government have already given Chrysler Canada \$750 million Canadian of a \$1 billion loan and have promised further support if a viable plan is put forward by April 30.

The Canadian government has said Chrysler and General Motors must present plans that maintain the 20 percent Canadian share of production. The auto industry directly employs over 150,000 Canadians plus another 340,000 Canadians indirectly.

Nation

2 swine flus in Kan., US total 11; 8 likely in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Two cases of the human swine influenza have been confirmed in Kansas and one more in California, bringing the U.S. total to 11. At least eight students at a New York City high school probably have swine flu also, but health officials said Saturday they don't know whether they have the same strain of the virus that has killed people in Mexico. New York Gov. David Paterson on Saturday directed the state Department of Health to mobilize its infectious-diseases, epidemiology and disaster preparedness workers to monitor and respond to possible cases of the flu. He said 1,500 treatment courses of the antiviral Tamiflu had been sent to New York City.

A strain of the flu has killed as many as 81 people and sickened more than 1,000 across Mexico, where authorities have extended school closures in the capital and two neighboring states with

outbreaks. The World Health Organization chief said Saturday the strain has "pandemic potential" and it may be too late to contain a sudden outbreak.

Kansas health officials said Saturday they had confirmed swine flu in a married couple living in the central part of the state after the husband visited Mexico. The couple, who live in Dickinson County, were not hospitalized, and the state described their illnesses as mild.

Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips, the state health officer, said, "Fortunately, the man and woman understand the gravity of the situation and are very willing to isolate themselves."

The man traveled to Mexico last week for a professional conference and became ill after returning home. His wife became ill later. Their doctor suspected swine flu, but it wasn't confirmed until flu specimens were flown to the federal Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention in Atlanta.

Swine flu is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A flu viruses, the CDC's Web site

says. Human cases of swine flu are uncommon but can happen in people who are around pigs and can be spread from person

to person. Symptoms of the flu include a fever of more than 100 degrees, body aches, coughing, a sore throat, respiratory

congestion and, in some cases, vomiting and diarrhea.

At least nine swine flu cases have been reported in California and Texas. The new California case, the seventh there, was a 35-year-old Imperial County woman who was hospitalized but recovered. The woman, whose illness began in early April, had no known contact with the other cases.

The 11 U.S. swine flu victims range in age from 9 to over 50. All recovered or are recovering; at least two were hospitalized.

Health officials are worried because people appear to have no immunity to the virus, a combination of bird, swine and human influenzas. Also, the virus presents itself like other swine flus, but none of the U.S. cases appears to involve direct contact with pigs, said Eberhart-Phillips, who called the strain "a completely novel virus."



St. Francis Preparatory School is seen in the Queens borough of New York, Saturday, April 25, 2009. AP

Inside accounts of interrogation approval differ

WASHINGTON (AP)—Release of Bush-era documents that shed more light on the origins of the CIA's use of harsh interrogation tactics has ignited a backstage battle between former Bush officials over a crucial May 2002 meeting that paved the way for use of waterboarding on a suspected al-Qaida leader.

The fracas over who was responsible for authorizing use of the simulated drowning tactic and other harsh techniques on captured suspect

Abu Zubayda is raising new questions about that 2002 decision and follow-up moves that allowed the CIA to use the now-banned techniques.

Some former Bush officials argue that they were not properly warned by CIA officials about the potential perils of the severe methods, while others insist there were explicit cautions.

A former senior Bush administration official familiar with the deliberations told The Associated Press that during a meeting of Bush senior officials

in May 2002, then-CIA director George Tenet, backed by agency lawyers and CIA officers, reassured former NSC director Condoleezza Rice, then-Attorney General John Ashcroft and others that waterboarding and other harsh techniques were both safe and necessary.

The former official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the issue's continuing sensitivity, said Tenet and other CIA officials did not mention the techniques' poten-

tial legal and physical dangers.

Tenet was not available for comment Saturday. Rice and other former Bush administration principals involved in or aware of the May 2002 meeting have not responded to efforts by the AP to obtain comment in recent days.

Rice told the Senate Armed Services Committee last fall that she and other senior Bush officials were told that the harsh interrogation methods would not cause significant psychological or physical harm.

3 dead, 2 hurt in Ga. shooting; professor sought

ATHENS, Ga. (AP)—A University of Georgia professor who police suspect in the fatal shootings of his ex-wife and two men outside a theater near campus Saturday disappeared in his Jeep after dropping his children off with a neighbor, authorities said.

A nationwide manhunt was on for 57-year-old George Zinkhan, whom neighbors and others described as a quiet, introverted and respected marketing professor at the university in Athens.

Members of a local theater

group had gathered midday at the Athens Community Theater when Zinkhan left his children in his car and fired at them, said Athens-Clarke County Police Capt. Clarence Holeman. Killed were Zinkhan's ex-wife Marie Bruce, 47, Tom Tanner, 40, and Ben Teague, 63, Holeman said. Two others were injured by flying shrapnel.

SWAT members swarmed Zinkhan's neighborhood about seven miles from campus, and authorities searched his university office but came up empty. It didn't appear he had

used his credit cards or ATM card, police said.

"We're doing everything we can to shut him down," Holeman said. "I believe he will turn up somewhere, somehow."

Zinkhan has been a professor in the Terry College of Business and had no disciplinary problems, university spokesman Pete Konenkamp said. He has taught at the school since the 1990s.

"His track record is impeccable as far as his teaching credentials," Konenkamp said. "He's a respected professor on campus."

The three victims were all in-

involved with the Town & Gown Players Inc., a group that had planned an evening performance of "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the theater. The show was canceled after the shooting.

Tanner was set to be Dr. John Watson in the play, and Teague described himself on a Web site that bears his name as "a confirmed theater bum" for the local group. Bruce, a family law attorney her friends described as a well-respected, had for years volunteered as a set designer and director for the group.

Polo team vet grief-stricken after horse deaths

WELLINGTON, Fla. (AP)—When Argentine veterinarian Felix Crespo injected 21 elite polo horses with a vitamin supplement shortly before a championship match in Florida, he never imagined they would all be dead the next day.

A week later, with the horses felled by a mysterious poison, the grief in Crespo's eyes speaks volumes. Deep pain lurks beneath the brim of his ball cap. "I

am not living," Crespo told The Associated Press on Saturday in his first interview since the horses died last Sunday. "I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy."

Crespo stroked his mustache, his head slightly hung. His eyes drooped from a lack of sleep. He said he spends more time with the horses than his family.

"They are part of our family," said Crespo, a father of four.

At the Lechuza Caracas polo

team's sprawling 60-acre ranch in South Florida's polo capital about 15 miles from the Atlantic Coast, Crespo was somber and soft-spoken. He sat with team manager Esteban Scott on a brown leather couch in a room decorated with horse pictures, just feet from the stables.

Both men are still in shock.

"For me, it's really a tragedy," said Crespo, who has spent his life around horses and breeds

them in his home country. "It's going to be very tough to recover ... I don't know if I am going to be back to the same person."

A Florida pharmacy that prepared the supplement for the team on order from their local veterinarian said Thursday the strength of an ingredient was incorrect. The pharmacy would not say what the ingredient was or if the mix-up was in the prescription that came from the veterinarian.

ACROSS THE NATION

Officials: 2 Fla. sheriff's deputies fatally shot

CRESTVIEW, Fla. (AP)—Two north Florida sheriff's deputies were fatally shot at a shooting range by a suspect who was later killed by deputies after he fled across the county line, authorities said. It happened around 1 p.m. Saturday when the two Okaloosa County deputies went to Shoal River Sporting Clays and Shooting Center in response to a domestic violence call, sheriff's officials said. Deputies Burt Lopez and Deputy Warren "Skip" York were pronounced dead after being airlifted to Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, about 45 miles away, the sheriff's office said. Sheriff's officials identified their killer as Joshua Cartwright, 28, of Fort Walton Beach. Authorities said the suspect shot both deputies and took off toward neighboring Walton County, where he was shot and killed by deputies. A witness, Mark Illich was near the DeFuniak Springs intersection where the officers killed Cartwright.

SC officials: Calm winds should help contain fire

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP)—South Carolina firefighters continued Saturday to snuff out the hotspots of a wild-fire smoldering near the coast for four days and officials said the blaze that once came perilously close to the state's tourist mecca appeared to be mostly contained. After scorching more than 30 square miles and demolishing scores of homes, the fire remained 85 percent under control through the day, said authorities who were heartened by a forecast of calming winds and high humidity—but still no rain—into Sunday. "That's very encouraging," said Scott Hawkins, a spokesman for the state Forestry Commission. "But until it's 100 percent contained, we won't rest easy no matter how positive things are." Officials said smoldering ashes and hot spots fanned earlier in the week by 30 mph gusts remained unpredictable, and some inland homes along the containment line's edge remained a worry.

10-vehicle NJ Turnpike crash kills 5, hurts more

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. (AP)—A 10-vehicle crash on the New Jersey Turnpike, one of the nation's most heavily trafficked highways, killed five people in one car and injured several others on Saturday afternoon. Turnpike Authority spokesman Joe Orlando said it appeared that nine cars and a tractor-trailer were involved in the fiery crash in the turnpike's southbound lanes in Mount Laurel, considered a Philadelphia suburb. Emergency crews remained at the scene Saturday night, working to clear the crash site and redirect drivers caught in traffic delays caused by the accident. Orlando said all those who died in the 1 p.m. crash were from one car, which burst into flames. Another person who was seriously injured in the crash was flown to a nearby hospital.

Asia

NKorea says it has reactivated nuclear facilities

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said that it has begun harvesting plutonium from spent fuel rods at its main nuclear plant to build up its atomic arsenal. The move, in defiance of tightening U.N. sanctions, threatened to further damage efforts to dismantle the communist nation's rogue program.

"This will contribute to bolstering the nuclear deterrence for self-defense in every way to cope with the increasing military threats from hostile forces," the official Korean Central News Agency quoted a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Saturday.

North Korea carried out a nuclear test in 2006 and is thought to have enough weaponized plutonium to make more than half a dozen atomic bombs. Five nations—Russia, China, South Korea, Japan and the U.S.—have been negotiating for years on disarming the communist country, but North Korea has walked away from the talks.

Saturday's announcement, which could not be independently verified, came just hours after the U.N. imposed new sanctions on three North

Korean companies in response to the country's controversial April 5 rocket launch.

North Korea says it sent a satellite into orbit as part of a peaceful bid to develop its space program. The U.N. Security Council called the rocket launch a violation of resolutions barring the North from missile-related activity, since the delivery systems for satellites and missiles are similar.

North Korea retaliated by quitting the disarmament talks and vowing to restart its atomic facilities. Last week, Pyongyang expelled international nuclear monitors from the main nuclear site at Yongbyon, north of the capital.

With eight of 11 steps toward disablement complete at Yongbyon, outside experts have said it could take months for the North to get the plant fully restarted.

Kim Yong-hyun, a professor at Seoul's Dongguk University, called the newest move a bluff designed to pressure Washington into holding direct talks with Pyongyang outside of the six-party process.



SUMMER FESTIVAL

A performer wearing a crab costume lead his group as they perform during the summer festival called "Aliwan Festival" Saturday, April 25, 2009 in Manila, Philippines. The annual festival presents different cultural performers from different provinces and competing for a price.

AP

Thai protesters hold first rally since crackdown

BANGKOK (AP)—Thousands of supporters of ousted Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra held their first anti-government rally Saturday since their protests earlier this month turned violent and were forcibly stopped by the army.

Meanwhile, one of Thaksin's chief critics was released from a hospital Saturday under tight security, eight days after a brazen assassination attempt left bullet shards in his skull.

The protest at Sanam Luang, an open field near Bangkok's Grand

Palace, drew roughly 5,000 people at its peak, the number predicted by organizers but far short of the estimated 100,000 who turned out for a street rally earlier this month. Many of the demonstrators wore their movement's signature red shirts.

Protest leader Somyos Prueksakasemsuk said the demonstrators were urging the government to "stop intimidation" of their movement and were showing that "the divide in the country remains."

Speaking later from a small stage, he accused the government of wanting "reconciliation that will make people surrender to be their slaves."

"But we want to be real citizens and express our rights," he said to cheers. "We want the rule of democracy back, which means the government should come from an election without any interference from outside powers." The group accuses the military and other elements of the Thai elite of conniving to undermine democracy.

Asia on alert after swine flu outbreak

TOKYO (AP)—Asian health authorities were on alert Sunday, with some checking passengers and pork products from Mexico, as the World Health Organization declared the deadly swine flu outbreak a public health emergency of "pandemic potential."

Japan's biggest international airport stepped up health surveillance, while the Philippines said it may quarantine passengers with fevers who have been to Mexico. Health authorities in Thailand and Hong Kong said they were closely monitoring the situation.

China said anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms within two weeks of arriving in the country from swine-flu affected territories was required to report to authorities.

Malaysia and other Asian nations said they were awaiting further advice from WHO, whose Director-General Margaret Chan said Saturday the North American outbreak of a never-before-seen virus was a very serious situation with "pandemic potential."

At least 81 people have died from

severe pneumonia caused by a flu-like illness in Mexico, according to WHO. Some of those who died are confirmed to have a unique version of the A/H1N1 flu virus that is a combination of bird, pig and human viruses.

U.S. authorities said 11 people were infected with swine flu, and all recovered or are recovering and at least two were hospitalized.

Mexico has closed schools, museums, libraries and theaters in a bid to contain the outbreak, which may have sickened about 1,000 people there.

5 police die in attack on Afghan governor compound

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Three Taliban suicide bombers evaded tight security to attack a governor's compound in southern Afghanistan, killing at least five police officers Saturday, authorities said.

The multi-pronged assault was the latest bold attack in Kandahar, the country's largest southern city and the Taliban's spiritual birthplace.

The three bombers were able to get past a first security checkpoint in the Kandahar governor's compound, and one bomber set off his explosives at a second checkpoint, said Ahmad Wali Karzai, the president's brother and the head of the provincial council.

The two other bombers moved deeper into the compound before police fired on them and their explosives detonated, Karzai said.

At least five police died in the attack and nine people were wounded, hospital officials said.

The Kandahar governor was not harmed, but officials were searching for a possible fourth suicide bomber, Karzai said.

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousef Ahmadi, claimed responsibility later Saturday for the attack.

Kandahar province is the spiritual birthplace of the Taliban, the hard-line Islamic militiamen who ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 and are now waging an insurgency against President Hamid Karzai's government.

Earlier this month, four Taliban suicide bombers disguised in army uniforms detonated a car bomb and stormed a government office in Kandahar, killing 13 people.

Last summer, Taliban fighters attacked Kandahar's prison in a multi-pronged assault that included a suicide truck bomb, a suicide bomber on foot and gunmen freeing the prisoners. About 870 prisoners escaped, including roughly 400 jailed insurgents.

Taliban fighters have made a bloody comeback in the last three years after what appeared to be an initial defeat following the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. President Barack Obama has ordered 21,000 more troops to Afghanistan this year to bolster the record 38,000 American forces already in the country.

Analysts say the Taliban are carrying out more sophisticated attacks because of their alliance and training with al-Qaida and Pakistani militants.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Report: Kim Jong Il's 3rd son assigned to post

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The third son of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has been assigned to the country's all-powerful National Defense Commission, a possible sign that he is being groomed as his father's successor, a news report said Sunday. Kim, who has ruled the nuclear-armed North with absolute authority since his father's death in 1994, has three known sons by two women but has not publicly anointed any of them as his successor. Speculation on who is to succeed the 67-year-old leader has grown since Kim reportedly suffered a stroke in August. On Sunday,

Yonhap news agency reported Kim's youngest son, 26-year-old Kim Jong Un, took up a low-level post at the defense commission, several days before the country's rubber-stamp parliament reappointed the senior Kim as the commission's chairman on April 9.

Malaysia vows action on Myanmar human trafficking

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's prime minister vowed to investigate a scathing report by U.S. lawmakers saying thousands of Myanmar refugees were handed over to human traffickers with some ending up working in Thai brothels. The U.S. Senate

Committee on Foreign Relations said in the report that illegal Myanmar migrants deported from Malaysia were often forced to work in brothels, fishing boats and restaurants across the border in Thailand if they had no money to purchase their freedom. The report was based on a yearlong review by committee staff who spoke to migrants from military-ruled Myanmar, also known as Burma, and human rights activists. Prime Minister Najib Razak said Friday that his government hopes to get more information on the report from U.S. authorities. "We will take appropriate action," Najib told reporters. "We do not want Malaysia to be

used as a point for human trafficking ... but we need to know more facts."

UN to press Sri Lanka for access to war zone

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The United Nations' top humanitarian official arrived in Sri Lanka to seek access to some 50,000 civilians trapped in the country's war zone, while the Tamil Tiger rebels warned Saturday of "imminent" starvation among noncombatants. Reports of chaos and suffering in the northern war zone have increased in recent days as the Sri Lankan military pushed forward with its offensive to destroy the separatist insurgency and end

the Indian Ocean island nation's bloody quarter-century civil war. Aid workers have been barred from the region since fighting escalated last year. U.N. Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes, who begins a three-day mission to the island Sunday, said he hopes to persuade the Sri Lankan government to suspend its assault and allow a humanitarian team into the conflict zone. He said Saturday that the trapped civilians are suffering from a "very high" casualty rate, and from lack of food, clean water and medical supplies. The U.N. says nearly 6,500 civilians have been killed in the fighting over the past three months.

World

Clinton tries to reassure Iraqis during visit

BAGHDAD (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton tried to reassure nervous Iraqis that the U.S. won't abandon them, even as she said the American troop withdrawal would stay on schedule despite

a recent surge in violence.

On her first visit to Baghdad as chief U.S. diplomat, Clinton said Saturday that Washington remains committed to moving U.S. soldiers out of urban areas by June 30 and pulling out combat

troops from the country by 2011.

"Our strategy in working with you may be in a new phase, but we pledge our full and continuing commitment to Iraq and the Iraqi people," she told a news conference after meeting Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari.

"As we draw down militarily we will deepen our civilian cooperation," Clinton said, standing beside Zebari in an auditorium at the Foreign Ministry.

The withdrawal will proceed in a "responsible and careful way," she said, and would not affect ef-

forts to improve Iraq's security forces, or complete reconstruction and development projects.

Zebari welcomed Clinton's "very assuring message that the United States would continue to support the efforts of the Iraqi government and the enhancement

of Iraqi security and stability." He said Iraqi authorities wanted to ensure there is "no vacuum" when U.S. troops leave.

Clinton made clear, however, that Iraqis and their security forces in particular need to overcome sectarian and other differences if they are to build a united, secure nation, she said.

Suicide bombings Thursday and Friday that primarily targeted Shiite worshippers killed more than 150 people, many of them Iranian pilgrims. The second attack, at a revered Baghdad tomb, was the single deadliest bombing in the country this year.

"I condemn these violent recent efforts to disrupt the progress that Iraq is making," Clinton said, claiming the attacks were a sign that extremists are afraid Iraq's government is succeeding.

But she said the response by the government and its people was "firm and united in rejecting that violence and refusing to allow it to set Iraqi against Iraqi, which is obviously one of its intended goals." These attacks, she said, "do not reflect any diversion from the security progress that has been made."



In this handout photo released by the Iraqi Presidential Press Office, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, right, shakes hands with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, during their meeting in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, April 25, 2009.

Mexico fights swine flu with 'pandemic potential'

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's president assumed new powers Saturday to isolate people infected with a deadly swine flu strain as authorities struggled to contain an outbreak that world health officials warned could become a global epidemic.

New cases of swine flu were confirmed in Kansas and California and suspected in New York City. But officials said they didn't know whether the New York cases were the strain that now has killed up to 81 people in Mexico and likely sickened 1,324 since April 13, according to figures updated late Saturday by Mexico's health secretary.

Tests have confirmed swine flu as the cause of death in 20 of the cases.

Mexican soldiers and health workers patrolled airports and bus stations as they tried to corral people who may be infected with the swine flu, as it became clearer that the government may have been slow to respond to the out-

break in March and early April.

Now, even detaining the ill may not keep the strain—a combination of swine, bird and human influenza that people may have no natural immunity to—from spreading, epidemiologists say.

The World Health Organization on Saturday asked countries around the world to step up reporting and surveillance of the disease and implement a coordinated response to contain it.

Two dozen new suspected cases were reported in Mexico City alone, where authorities suspended schools and all public events until further notice. More than 500 events, including concerts and sports games, were canceled in the metropolis of 20 million.

Mexican authorities ordered schools closed in the capital and the states of Mexico and San Luis Potosi until May 6, and the Roman Catholic Church announced the cancellation of Sunday masses in the capital.

US journalist jailed in Iran goes on hunger strike

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—An American journalist jailed in Iran for allegedly spying for the U.S. was on her fifth day of a hunger strike Saturday and does not plan to stop until she is freed, her father said.

Roxana Saberi, a dual American-Iranian citizen who will turn 32 on Sunday, was convicted more than a week ago and sentenced to eight years in prison after a swift, one-day trial behind closed doors. She began her hunger strike Tuesday to protest her imprisonment, her father said.

"She said that she has started a hunger strike and this is the fifth day and that she will continue until she is free. I tried to tell her that this can be dangerous, but she didn't give me any time to protest," her father, Reza Saberi, told The Associated Press.

The case has been a source of tension between the United

States and Iran at a time when the Obama administration has said it wants to engage its longtime adversary. The U.S. has called the accusations against Saberi baseless and demanded her release.

Saberi's father said her lawyer appealed the court's ruling on Saturday—less than a week after Iran's judiciary spokesman said an Iranian appeals court would reconsider her verdict, an indication her sentence could be commuted.

Iran's judiciary chief has ordered a full investigation into the case, and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has urged Tehran's chief prosecutor to

ensure Saberi be allowed a full defense during her appeal.

Saberi was arrested in late January and initially accused of working without press credentials. But earlier this month, an Iranian judge leveled the far more serious allegation of espionage.

Saberi, who was born in the United States and grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, moved to Iran six years ago and worked as a freelance journalist for news organizations including National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Corp. She received Iranian citizenship because her father was born in Iran.

WORLD BRIEFS

Italy's Mafia thrives in global financial meltdown

NAPLES, Italy (AP)—While businesses around the world are hunkering down for survival, the Italian mob is living a golden moment. Italy's various organized crime syndicates—often lumped together colloquially as Mafia Inc.—are gobbling up gas stations, muscling in on supermarket franchises, making loans to cash-starved businesses, taking over trattorias and acquiring buildings in swank neighborhoods in Rome and Milan, investigators say. These mobsters have lots of what is in short supply for many businesses these days—liquidity—as well as centuries-honed expertise in preying on the vulnerable, whose ranks are swelling in the current financial crisis. It all means the mob is free to sink cash into two areas that lie at the heart of the global meltdown: real estate and credit markets. The crime syndicates are flush with billions of euros from extortion rackets, drug trafficking and booming sales in fake designer clothing made in China expressly for the Italian mob—an increasingly lucrative trade as hard-hit consumers search for bargains, prosecutors and police said in recent interviews.

Official: Ethiopia arrests 35 for coup plot

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—The Ethiopian government has arrested 35 people suspected of a coup attempt allegedly backed by an Ethiopian economist now teaching at a Pennsylvania uni-

versity, a government spokesman said Saturday. Government spokesman Ermias Legesse said the group, which calls itself "May 15" after the date of controversial 2005 elections in Ethiopia, was led from the U.S. by former opposition leader Berhanu Nega, who is an associate professor of economics at Bucknell University. "It is the party led by Berhanu Nega," said Ermias. "If he comes to Ethiopia, we'll arrest him." He said the alleged plotters were arrested Friday. Interviewed in Lewisburg, Berhanu, 51, said he had no role in organizing any coup attempt.

South Africa's ANC fails to get 2/3 of seats

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—The leader of South Africa's long-dominant ANC was treated like a president-elect Saturday after his party swept parliamentary elections—though not with the two-thirds majority it won easily in the last vote. A split in the ANC and questions about Jacob Zuma's fitness to govern after sex and corruption scandals no doubt contributed to the party's loss of support. But Zuma insisted he was not disappointed, telling reporters: "We have won a decisive majority." But not the two-thirds of the 400-member parliament that would allow it to enact major budgetary plans or legislation unchallenged, or change the constitution—though Zuma says charges from the opposition he planned to undermine the constitution were unfounded. Parliament elects the president in South Africa, and was expected to vote Zuma into office May 6.

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq tightened security Saturday at major Shiite shrines in response to two days of suicide attacks targeting worshippers—including one at a revered Baghdad tomb that was the single deadliest bombing in the country this year.

More than 150 people, many of them Iranian pilgrims, died in the attacks Thursday and Friday.

The increase in attacks in recent weeks has raised questions about the abilities of Iraq's security forces, and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met with Iraqi leaders Saturday in Baghdad to assure continued American support even as it moves toward with-

drawing its troops.

The number of dead in Friday's attack by two female suicide bombers at Baghdad's shrine of Imam Mousa al-Kazim reached 71, an Iraqi police official said Saturday.

A hospital official confirmed the toll, adding that 125 were also wounded in the bombing. Many were Iranian pilgrims on their way to pray at the popular mosque.

Friday's attack was the single most deadly this year. The death toll topped the 57 people killed Thursday by a suicide bomber at a restaurant north of Baghdad in Muqdadiah, previously the deadliest attack since Janu-

ary. Another attack on Thursday struck Iraqis collecting humanitarian aid, killing 31.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has ordered a military task force to investigate Friday's attack. He also suspended the area commanders for failing to provide adequate security around the shrine.

The two blasts happened within minutes of each other at separate gates of the tomb shortly before the start of prayers as worshippers streamed into the mosque, police said.

Security has been tightened and checkpoints added around the shrine in the northern Baghdad neighborhood of Kazimiyyah, a police official said.

Health & Fitness

Personal training, from a distance

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Permanent weight loss is usually impossible without exercise, but—where to start? Weights? Cardio? How many days a week? For how long?

That's typically where a personal trainer enters the scene, designing fitness routines, making sure exercises are done correctly and offering motivation. Now there's training via Internet and the phone. Such coaching has become enormously popular in the past few years, spawning a mini-industry of tailored but flexible workouts. Some programs offer customized, downloadable regimens based on an online questionnaire, with little or no trainer interaction; others provide extensive one-on-one phone coaching.

Many online sites allow people to plug in information and track their workout and diet progress.

One of the more common coaching methods begins with one or two in-person sessions that include a fitness and health assessment, a discussion of goals and some training on proper form and technique.

After that, check-ins are done via e-mail and phone, with the trainer tweaking routines, monitoring progress toward goals and providing motivation. Some clients even send footage of their workouts to be tweaked, and trainers in turn send new video routines to follow.

In-person meetings can follow every few months.

A gym isn't even necessary, since a great workout can be done at home, at the beach or at a park.



Another option is small-group training, in which two to five people work with a trainer at once. It's less expensive than one-on-one workouts and a good way to learn how to strength train properly.

When choosing a program, the key is to know thyself, says Margaret Moore, chief executive of the online coaching site Wellcoaches: "Some people want more of a relationship, while others are

more into technology."

Ken Alan, a spokesman for the American Council on Exercise and a lecturer in kinesiology at California State University, Fullerton, offers a few other tips for making this hybrid form of training work.

Is the trainer certified?

Make sure the trainer has current certification from a reputable organization such as the American College of Sports Medicine, the American Council on Exercise, the National Academy of Sports Medicine or the National Strength and Conditioning Association, even if you're referred by a friend or relative you trust. Besides referrals, trainers can be found in gyms and online, and certifications can be confirmed through the various organizations.

Some trainers specialize in working with the disabled or chronically ill, pregnant women and new mothers, or elderly people.

Cheating gets you nowhere

Remember that you don't have license to cheat just because your trainer can't see you. You'll only be wasting your time if you don't give the process your all. Be fully committed to your fitness program, and be open to trying different things, such as cycling, dancing or hiking. "A trainer needs to find out what's necessary to get the client moving so that they'll enjoy exercising and it doesn't feel like work," Alan says.

Make sure you click

Make sure you're comfortable with the trainer during the initial one-on-one sessions. A strained or uncomfortable relationship won't get better, even online. It might take a few tries before a good match is made. "You might start getting e-mails," Alan says, "and discover the trainer is a drill sergeant, when you really wanted someone more compassionate."

Set parameters

Establish how often you want to interact with your trainer and by what means -- e-mail, text messages, phone, snail mail, etc. Ask how progress will be measured, beyond shedding pounds. "If someone's goal is to lose 10 pounds

and they only lost two, their trainer can show them other areas where they've had success and made improvements," Alan says. This ultimately will make it easier to stick to a plan.

And check some more

When selecting an Internet-based training program (one that doesn't offer one-on-one training), check it out thoroughly to see if it meets your needs, is within your budget and has a qualified staff behind it.

Here are a few established places to start that offer a variety of services, with prices starting at \$16 a month:

■ **Workoutsforyou.com:** One appealing feature of this site is the varying levels of training programs, from the bare-bones "Access for You" plan with non-customized workouts and the exercise demo library, to the "Extras for You" program, with custom cardio and strength-training workouts and weekly trainer e-mails.

■ **Wellcoaches:** Clients are matched to coaches who will best meet their needs, and counseling via phone and Internet is done with a holistic approach, tackling other issues such as stress and goal planning. It has a partnership with the American College of Sports Medicine.

■ **Global Health & Fitness:** Members are assigned to their own trainer, plus get personalized training and nutrition programs, fitness videos, podcasts and 24-hour access to the site's experts.

■ **Plus One Active:** The site offers workout plans, goal tracking and access to trainers. Trainer bios are online, allowing potential members to see their backgrounds and qualifications.

Weight loss the DIY way

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Of course contestants on such television shows as "The Biggest Loser" can lose lots—whole lots—of weight. Why wouldn't they? They have an entire team of people constantly coaching, instructing and motivating them to shed pounds and get in shape.

If the rest of us had our own team of experts, we, too, might have a fighting chance at losing weight, getting fit and staying that way.

Here's to a fighting chance.

Amassing a cadre of experts is not only possible, it also can be affordable. No budget for weekly visits with a personal trainer? Work with one over the Internet to achieve those exercise goals. Can't afford one-on-one sessions with a registered dietitian? Get all the basics of healthful eating, along with practical advice, online. Need emotional support? Find people who understand your trials and tribulations at a nearby Weight Watchers meeting or on an Internet message board.

As for a doctor's guidance, first consider whether you need it. If so, make the most of that session and his or her input.

Ready? Here's how to round up your own team, most of it only a mouse click away.

Gain support to lose weight with buddy system

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Weight-loss confidants can talk you down before you inhale the doughnuts in the break room, maybe cajoling you into going for a walk instead. They also can rejoice with you in another 5 pounds shed.

"The key is shared commitment of beliefs and values," says Daniel Stettner, director of psychology for UnaSource Health Center, a medical and surgical complex in Troy, Mich.

Group or professional therapy, which can be expensive, isn't always necessary. Sometimes having a few simpatico types in your corner who have been there and done that is enough. Stettner offers some guidelines for choosing a coterie that can make getting healthy less arduous:

■ **Don't assume family and existing friends are the best option.** Major lifestyle changes require upheaval from normal routines such as going out for drinks or dinner—and that can create resentment. "You're going against the group at times," Stettner says, "and you're singling out yourself to be different—eating differently from the family, not eating snacks at work."

Friends might try to dissuade you from exercising in favor of some other activity, but support group buddies will go on a walk with you, changing old patterns for newer ones.

■ **Check out existing groups.** Weight Watchers, Overeaters Anonymous and even nearby gyms are usually filled with people who are making similar lifestyle changes. Like-minded folks can become workout partners or cof-



fee pals who won't goad you into eating fattening treats. Online obesity and weight-loss forums are another option, but be aware that some are geared to those who have gone through, or are contemplating, gastric bypass surgery or medication. Some, like Pritikin, may

charge a membership fee. Weight Watchers has its own online forum; others to check out include SparkPeople.com and Weight Loss Forum.

■ **Turn your regular friends and family into an adjunct support group.**

"Tell them, 'This is what I want to do, and I'd like to talk to you about how we can do this together so you can be supportive of me but it won't cause issues for you,'" Stettner says. That might mean meeting for activities other than eating or asking family members to tuck chips out of sight.

■ **Realize that friends and support groups have their limits.** For starters, they might not be the best sources for nutritional or fitness advice. If, despite your efforts, you still aren't achieving your goals, counseling may be in order.

Life & Style

'Golden Girls' star Bea Arthur dies at 86

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Beatrice Arthur, the tall, deep-voiced actress who considered herself lucky to be discovered by television executives after a long stage career that included a Tony award for the musical "Mame," died Saturday at age 86.

The star of the TV shows "Maude" and "The Golden Girls" died peacefully at her Los Angeles home with her family at her side, family spokesman Dan Watt said. She had cancer, he said, but declined to give details.

"She was a brilliant and witty woman," said Watt, who was Arthur's personal assistant for six years. "Bea will always have a special place in my heart."

Arthur first appeared in the landmark comedy series "All in the Family" as Edith Bunker's outspoken, liberal cousin, Maude Finley. She proved a perfect foil for blue-collar bigot Archie Bunker (Carroll O'Connor), and their blistering exchanges were so entertaining that producer Norman Lear fashioned Arthur's own series.

In a 2008 interview with The Associated Press, Arthur recalled with bemusement being discovered by CBS executives asking about the new "girl."

"I was already 50 years old. I had done so much off-Broadway, on Broadway, but they said, 'Who is that girl? Let's give her her own series,'" Arthur said.

"Maude" scored with television viewers immediately on its CBS debut in September 1972, and Arthur won an Emmy Award for the role in 1977.

The comedy flowed from Maude's efforts to cast off the traditional restraints that women faced, but the series often had a serious base. Her husband Walter (Bill Macy) became an alcoholic, and she underwent an abortion, which drew a torrent of viewer protests. Maude became a standard bearer for the growing feminist movement in America.

"She was an incredible actress and a woman I will miss, and I think everyone else will," said Bud Yorkin, producer of "Maude" with partner Lear.

The ratings of "Maude" in the early years approached those of its parent, "All in the Family," but by 1977 the audience started to dwindle. A major format change was planned, but in early 1978 Arthur announced she was quitting the show.



This Aug. 29, 1988 file photo shows actress Beatrice Arthur accepting her Emmy award at the 40th annual Emmy Awards ceremony in Pasadena, Ca. AP

"It's been absolutely glorious; I've loved every minute of it," she said. "But it's been six years, and I think it's time to leave."

"Golden Girls" (1985-1992) was another groundbreaking comedy, finding surprising success in a television market increasingly skewed toward a younger, product-buying audience.

The series concerned three retirees—Arthur, Betty White and Rue McClanahan—and the mother of Arthur's character, Estelle Getty, who lived together in a Miami house. In contrast to the violent "Miami Vice," the comedy was nicknamed "Miami Nice."

As Dorothy Zbornak, Arthur seemed as caustic and domineering as Maude. She was unconcerned about the similarity of the two roles. "Look—I'm 5-feet-9, I have a deep voice and I have a way with a line," she told an interviewer. "What can I do about it? I can't stay home waiting for something different. I think it's a total waste of energy worrying about typecasting."

The interplay among the four women and their relations with men fueled the comedy, and the show amassed a big audience and 10 Emmys, including

two as best comedy series and individual awards for each of the stars.

McClanahan said Arthur felt constrained by the show during its later years and in 1992 she announced she was leaving "Golden Girls."

"Bea liked to be the star of the show, she didn't really like to do that ensemble playing," McClanahan said.

McClanahan first worked with Arthur on "Maude," playing her best friend, Vivian. The women quickly became close friends in real life. McClanahan recalled Arthur as a kind and caring person with a no-nonsense edge.

The three other stars returned in "The Golden Palace," but it lasted only one season.

Arthur was born Bernice Frankel in New York City in 1922. When she was 11, her family moved to Cambridge, Md., where her father opened a clothing store. At 12 she had grown to full height, and she dreamed of being a petite blond movie star like June Allyson. There was one advantage of being tall and deep-voiced: She was chosen for the male roles in school plays.

Bernice—she hated the name and

adopted her mother's nickname of Bea—overcame shyness about her size by winning over her classmates with wisecracks. She was elected the wittiest girl in her class. After two

years at a junior college in Virginia, she earned a degree as a medical lab technician, but she "loathed" doing lab work at a hospital. Acting held more appeal, and she enrolled in a drama course at the New School of Social Research in New York City. To support herself, she sang in a night spot that required her to push drinks on customers.

During this time she had a brief marriage that provided her stage name of Beatrice Arthur. In 1950, she married again, to Broadway actor and future Tony-winning director Gene Saks.

After a few years in off-Broadway and stock company plays and television dramas, Arthur's career gathered momentum with her role as Lucy Brown in the 1955 production of "The Threepenny Opera."

In 2008, when Arthur was inducted in the TV Academy Hall of Fame, she pointed to the role as the highlight of her long career.

"A lot of that had to do with the fact that I felt, 'Ah, yes, I belong here,'" Arthur said.

More plays and musicals followed, and she also sang in nightclubs and played small roles in TV comedy shows.

Then, in 1964, Harold Prince cast her as Yente the Matchmaker in the original company of "Fiddler on the Roof."

Silent star's seaside estate now public beach club

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—The former estate of silent film star Marion Davies, where the rich and famous frolicked during Hollywood's Golden Age, opened Saturday as a public beach club after more than 10 years of planning.

The 5-acre beachfront estate was built by newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst for Davies in the late 1920s while they carried on a long-term love affair. They hosted lavish parties there in the '20s and '30s, entertaining such stars as Clark Gable, Charlie Chaplin, Jean Harlow and Joan Crawford.

The property later became a hotel, then a private beach club and at one point was the backdrop of "Beverly Hills 90210." It was shut down after

being heavily damaged by the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

The city-operated Annenberg Community Beach House is the only such facility on the California coast that doesn't require membership.

"We don't want to call it a club, it's a community beach house," said Leonard Aube, managing director of the Annenberg Foundation, which provided \$27.5 million of the nearly \$35 million cost to build and finish the attraction.

Recreational facilities include the marble-tiled swimming pool where Davies and her friends swam. The only other structure remaining from the Davies era is a guest house, which is open for tours.

Okla. governor intervenes in Flaming Lips flap

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Oklahoma lawmakers who voted against making a Flaming Lips tune the official state rock song represent a minority of "small-minded religious wackos," the band's lead singer says.

Most state House members voted for a resolution recognizing 2002's "Do You Realize?," but conservatives who said they were offended by the band's clothing and language mustered enough votes to keep it from being adopted.

"Me, I just say look, it's a little minority of some small-minded religious wackos who think they can tell people what kind of T-shirts and what kind of music they can listen to, and the smart, rational, reasonable people of Oklahoma are never going to buy into that," frontman Wayne Coyne told Tulsa

World in an interview Friday.

Gov. Brad Henry resolved the issue by announcing he would sign an executive order proclaiming "Do You Realize?" the official rock song of Oklahoma. The song earned more than half of the 21,000 votes cast in an online contest.

The Grammy-winning group, formed in Norman in 1983, is known for its psychedelic rock and lyrics.

Rep. Corey Holland, R-Marlow, was offended when band member Michael Ivins wore a red T-shirt with a yellow hammer-and-sickle emblem, a traditional symbol of the Communist Party, during a visit to the Capitol last month.

"The great thing about this country is he has the right to make whatever

statement he wants to make," Holland said. "I have the right to be offended by that."

The shirt was a Christmas present to Ivins from Coyne's wife, and he wore it to a rehearsal earlier that day, said Coyne, who was offended by Holland's implication that the band is un-American.

Rep. Mike Reynolds, R-Oklahoma City, also denounced Coyne for using an expletive at an event.

Despite the criticism, Coyne said he always expected state residents to stand up for their native sons.

"People would have a reason to really fight for us and say, 'No, this isn't what Oklahoma is all about,'" Coyne said. "And I think the governor is very cool, how he's come to our rescue."



This April 24, 2009 photo shows the Marion Davies Guest House, seen during a preview tour of the Annenberg Community Beach House in Santa Monica, Calif. AP

Badu, brass bands get Jazz Fest thousands on feet

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Thousands gathered under blue skies Saturday to hear the music of neo-soul artist Erykah Badu, who took the stage at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival burning a stick of incense and wearing a lavender kimono.

"My eyes are green," she cooed to the crowd, which responded with claps and cheers.

"She's so emotional," said Stacey Cunningham of New Orleans, who had a spot on a blanket near the front of the stage. "I love that about her."

At least one famous face was in the crowd of thousands to hear Badu—New Orleans Hornets center Tyson Chandler, who headed to the festival grounds just hours after the team's NBA playoff win against the Denver Nuggets.

"Erykah's lyrics are really moving," said Donna Gilbert, a regular festgoer from New Orleans. "I find she touches and reaches people no matter what the age. She's really inspirational."

Earlier Saturday, Big Sam's Funky Nation, one of New Orleans' most energetic brass bands, had a crowd of thousands on its feet dancing and clapping. On another stage, The Imagination Movers, a children's band with a television show on the Disney Chan-



Third World performs at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, Saturday, April 25, 2009 in New Orleans.

nel by the same name, had parents and their little ones dancing as well. "We love the Movers," said New Orleans resident Dan Pellerito, 35, as he bobbed and clapped with his kids, 4-year-old Sophia and 2-year-old Henry.

Rihanna seeking return of pricey jewelry

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rihanna is seeking the return of \$1.4 million in jewelry she was wearing the night she was allegedly beaten by Chris Brown.

Donald Etra, an attorney for the "Umbrella" singer, filed a motion Tuesday asking that Los Angeles police and prosecutors return a pair of earrings and three rings, which were seized as evidence.

The motion states that Brown's attorney, and a Los Angeles Police Department detective overseeing the case, do not object to the return of the items. They have agreed that photographs can be used if the case goes to trial, the documents state.

The filing includes a general description of the items, saying they all are made of "yellow metal" and all but one includes "white stones." The value of the items is at least \$1.4 million, the motion states. It argues that photographs of the items will satisfy the needs of attorneys and asks the court "to order the return of the property to (Rihanna) without further delay."

A spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said the agency would not comment on the motion.

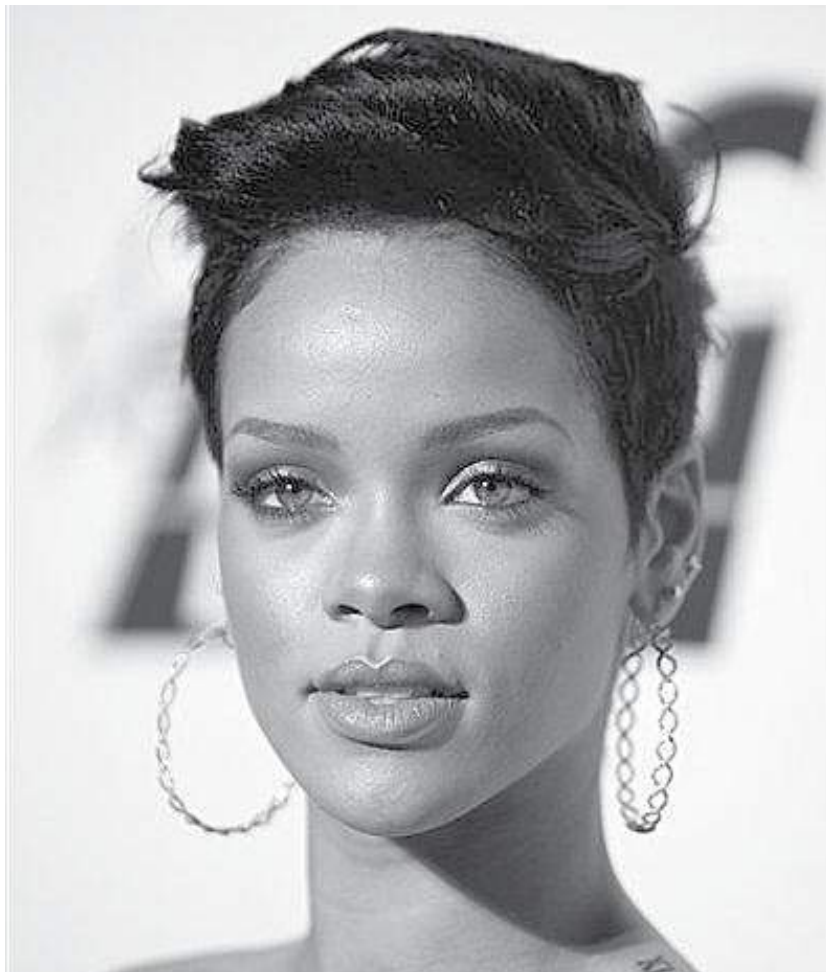
The jewelry was part of the ensemble that Rihanna, whose real name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty, was wearing when Brown allegedly beat her while driving home from a pre-Grammy party. Brown is accused of hitting, biting and choking his girlfriend as the couple drove through the upscale Hancock Park neighborhood.

The filing indicates the jewelry was loaned to the singer by four companies, which want the items back. The items are wanted for events overseas, the filing states.

Brown was arrested Feb. 8 and charged with felony assault and making criminal threats. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges and his case is due back in court on Wednesday, when a judge will consider the jewelry motion as well. Brown is not required to attend that hearing.

Etra has said that Rihanna would prefer prosecutors and Brown reach a plea agreement before a trial, but that the 21-year-old singer would testify if called.

In this Feb. 7, 2009 file photo, Rihanna arrives at the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party in Beverly Hills, Calif.



Nas says Grammy nod shows he's on right track

ATLANTA (AP)—Although rapper Nas received backlash over his racial epithet-titled album before switching it to "Untitled," he says earning a Grammy nomination for his controversial disc encouraged him to keep speaking his mind.

"It showed that I'm here and my voice is relevant," he told

In this April 20, 2009 file photo, Rapper Nas attends a special screening of Sony Picture Classics' 'Tyson' on Monday, April 20, 2009 in New York.

The Associated Press on Thursday night during an event held by BMI, a performing rights organization. "It shows my work is appreciated."

Some like the Rev. Jesse Jackson criticized Nas, calling his original title choice, which used the N-word, morally offensive and too degrading. Nas decided to changed the title but the lyrics stayed the same for the gold-selling album, which was released last summer.

Nas, who calls himself a "street disciple and political voice of

hip-hop," feels he was able to get his message across. "It tends to scare people and offend them," he said. "That's what it's supposed to do. A record is supposed to do that every once in a while." Now, Nas says he might take aim at another issue: homelessness in America.

"We have it good here in America. We're spoiled," he said. "We don't realize that people are poor, don't have food, no water in this same world we live in. Those are the things I'm concerned with and need to talk about," he added.

In all, Jazz Fest features hundreds of acts on 12 stages this weekend and next. Jazz Fest will continue Sunday and pick up again on Thursday. Among this year's headline acts are Bon Jovi, Neil Young, Kings of Leon and Sugarland.

Besides Badu, Saturday included performances by singer-songwriter James Taylor, the rock group Wilco, jazz clarinetist Pete Fountain and trumpeter and composer Wynton Marsalis, who performed with The Jazz at Lincoln Center, the New York-based orchestra he directs. Marsalis also performed with the orchestra on Friday, the festival's opening day.

"Wilco sounded great today," said Wynn Kapit of Kenner, La., who was in the crowd sporting a bright red Wilco T-shirt. He said he also caught performances by the Rebirth Brass Band and Fountain. "Only Jazz Fest has this kind of variety."

Earlier in the afternoon, festival organizers held a news conference to thank Jazz Fest sponsors, the biggest of which is Shell Oil Co. Shell stepped in to help Jazz Fest financially after Hurricane Katrina flooded 80 percent of the city. With the recent economic downturn, the festival lost three other sponsors, but Shell stayed on.

"We're very fortunate for that," said Jazz Fest producer Quint Davis.

At the news conference was Jazz Fest founder George Wein, who first started the event in 1970 and hired Davis.

With this year marking the 40th anniversary of the festival, Wein told reporters he was overwhelmed to see "a piece of my life's work" still alive and well after all these years.

Aerosmith to settle lawsuit with Maui performance

WAILUKU, Hawaii (AP)—Free tickets to see Aerosmith in Hawaii? Dream on, unless you happen to be one of 8,300 people left in the cold when the band canceled a sold-out concert in 2007.

Aerosmith has agreed to perform on Maui to settle a class-action lawsuit filed by fans who alleged the band pulled out of the show in favor of a larger concert in Chicago and a more lucrative private performance for Toyota dealers on Oahu.

The suit claimed the cancellation cost Maui ticket buyers between \$500,000 and \$3 million in travel costs, handling fees and other expenses.

"Everyone who bought a ticket to the original concert will receive a free ticket, and all out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed regardless of the amount," said Brandee Faria, an attorney representing the would-be concertgoers.

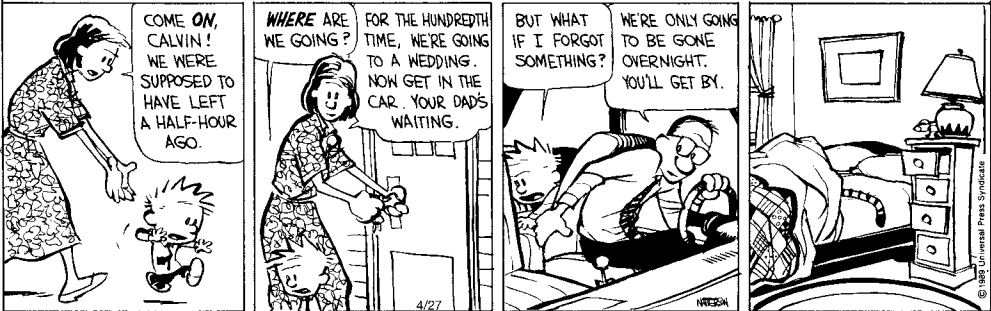
The date for the new Maui concert has not been set, but Faria said it will likely be in September or October, after Aerosmith wraps up its North America tour.

Aerosmith attorney Jay Handlin said the band was glad to reach the settlement.

"The band is about the music," Handlin said. "So they are glad to be able to resolve this in a way that really focuses on connecting or reconnecting the people of Hawaii with the band and its music."

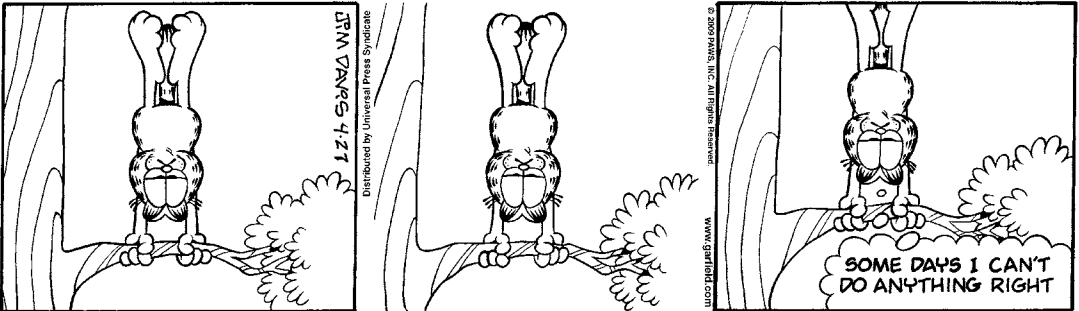
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



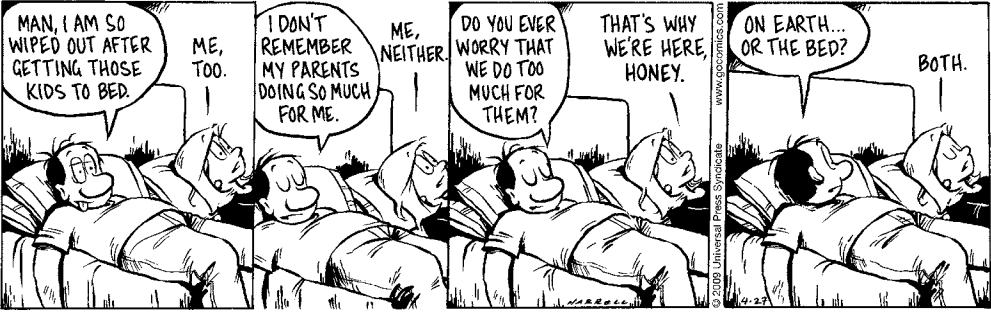
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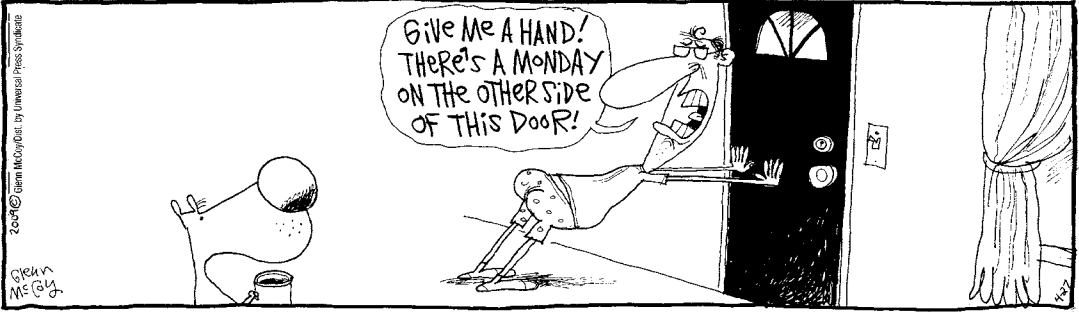
By Jim Davis

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The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 43 Teensy 44 Pre-swan 46 Duck 50 Shock 53 Once around ingredient 55 "Zounds!" 56 Pennsylvania port 57 Have bills 58 Fax 59 Hotel furniture 60 Potent stick 61 Rotation duration

DOWN 1 Ecdy-siast's move 2 Some-where out there 3 "Fugged-aboutit" 4 Binge 5 MPs' quarry 6 High-arc 7 Ali Baba's foes 8 Flightless bird 9 Bronze component 10 Noshed on 12 Andy Rooney's show 19 Thumbs-up 21 Employ 23 Intention 25 At so-and-so's house (Fr.) 26 Take on 27 Green-span's field (Abbr.) 28 Hit hard 29 Sheltered 30 "Ironsides" star 31 Slight amount 35 Church seat 38 Newton ingredient 40 Born 42 Apportion 45 Show boredom 47 On in years 48 Carvey or Delany 49 Vortex 50 Dubya's brother 51 Raw rock 52 Cover 54 Favorite

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 4-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: David Lascher, 37; Sheena Easton, 50; Ace Frehley, 58; Casey Kasem, 77

Happy Birthday: Pace yourself wisely this year. You will be inclined to offer too much and to get too little in return. Realize your worth, put a price on your time and effort and incorporate a solid budget. With a little confidence, you will see how much respect you gain and how quickly your options grow. Your numbers are 7, 10, 14, 25, 31, 38, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can reinvent one of your talents and turn it into a prosperous pastime. Step out on a limb and present what you have to offer. It's your no-nonsense attitude coupled with your drive that will attract attention. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Show a little versatility if you want others to consider you a candidate for an activity in which you want to participate. Someone will show an interest in you but don't be fooled—there are strings attached. Question what's expected of you. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can work your charm and get your way. Take on a challenge and you'll receive attention from someone who can make a difference in your life. Don't let demanding individuals tie up your time. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let your emotions cost you financially. Control your spending and your lending. An interesting individual may charm his or her way into your pocketbook, if you aren't careful. You have to say no. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Whether you are learning something new or getting to know someone or visiting a destination you've never been before, there are lessons to be learned that will give you the advantage in other areas of your life. You can express your desires and come out on top. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may think you have everything under control, but don't expect things to run smoothly, especially where work is concerned. Someone will do something unorthodox. By taking a power position, you will send a message that is difficult to deny. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take action and you will set yourself apart from the competition. A new look at something you used to enjoy doing will spark enthusiasm, leading to a new hobby, new friends or a new social activity. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone will not be happy if you shirk your responsibilities. A change is apparent within a social or networking group to which you belong. If you take a strong position, everyone will know you mean business. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone will want to spend as much time with you as you do with him or her. Plan something special. Changes at home will complement your current lifestyle. An old friend may not agree with what you are doing. Follow your heart. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Spend

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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time with someone who knows how to have fun and you will experience something that can bring you a lot of joy for years to come. Diversify and you will be inspired to make some powerful changes at home to stabilize your future. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Love must be nurtured in order to keep things running smoothly and your emotions under control. A job opportunity or chance to learn something new will help you realize what direction you should be taking next. Someone from your past will inspire you. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone will try to upset you emotionally. Do whatever is necessary to manipulate the situation you face. Now is not the time to give in when, in fact, you should be setting the stage for what's to come. **

Birthday Baby: You are strong, compassionate, adaptable, practical, giving and pushy when you want something. You are unafraid of change.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		3						1	
7			3	4					6
1	4	6			2	8	5	3	
			4		5			8	
		1						2	
	7			8		6			
2	5	3	7			9	6	4	
8				3	9				2
	9							3	

Difficulty Level ★

4/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	2	8	6	5	1	7	3
1	3	6	9	7	4	2	5	8
7	5	8	3	1	2	4	6	9
6	2	9	4	8	1	7	3	5
4	7	5	6	3	9	8	2	1
3	8	1	2	5	7	9	4	6
2	1	4	5	9	3	6	8	7
5	6	7	1	4	8	3	9	2
8	9	3	7	2	6	5	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★

4/25

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PLUTONIUM 240

Solution: 8 letters

A	P	R	O	T	O	N	S	A	M	P	L	E	P	ⓕ
P	G	N	I	S	S	E	C	O	R	P	E	R	Ⓚ	Ⓚ
O	X	I	D	E	S	H	N	C	R	C	O	Ⓚ	Ⓚ	Ⓚ
W	E	I	G	H	T	O	E	E	N	P	Ⓚ	Ⓚ	Ⓚ	Ⓚ
E	Y	E	R	O	C	S	L	A	E	I	N	U	N	T
R	R	D	N	L	M	A	T	R	V	I	L	L	O	A
A	T	A	I	A	T	S	T	A	T	Y	I	A	I	T
L	S	N	R	I	B	I	E	E	T	C	G	T	T	R
U	I	G	V	U	E	P	R	H	E	E	H	I	P	O
C	M	E	S	S	R	E	E	N	S	O	T	O	R	P
E	E	R	I	O	V	R	S	E	M	I	T	N	O	S
L	H	O	D	L	M	I	E	X	P	A	N	D	S	N
O	C	U	I	A	N	E	U	T	R	A	N	D	S	N
M	C	S	L	G	D	N	O	I	T	A	I	D	A	R
T	O	X	I	C	I	N	A	R	U	S	N	A	R	T

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Absorption, Chemistry, Core, Dangerous, Expand, Fuel, Gram, Heavy, Ignite, Licensing, Light, Molecular, Monoclinic, Neutron, Oxides, Power, Product, Properties, Protons, Radiation, Regulation, Relative, Reprocessing, Sample, Silver, State, Substance, Tarnishes, Thermal, Time, Toxic, Transportation, Transuranic, Weight
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR

MARK BYRON URUMELOG ROMOLOR,
Minor Child,
by
JANELLE GERMANCE ROMOLOR,
Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 30, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 12th day of March, 2009.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

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Stafford picked first by Lions, Jets get Sanchez



NEW YORK (AP)—Matthew Stafford's mission is daunting: Lead the Detroit Lions back from the only 0-16 season in NFL history. Mark Sanchez has nearly as big a challenge: He'll compete to replace Brett Favre.

The Lions found the centerpiece for one of the biggest rebuilding jobs in league history, taking Georgia quarterback Matthew Stafford with the overall No. 1 pick in the draft Saturday. Detroit already had signed the 21-year-old Stafford to a six-year deal with \$41.7 million in guarantees and a maximum value of \$78 million.

Stafford, who left school a year early, is not expected to start immediately.

"I'm a competitive guy," Stafford said. "I'm going to try to get ready as quick as I can."

"I put a lot of pressure on myself to be great anyway."

Then the New York Jets rocked Radio City Music Hall by trading with Cleveland—and of all people, Eric Mangini, whom they fired as coach in January—for the fifth overall spot. The Jets took the other premier quarterback in the draft, Sanchez of Southern California.

"I learned how to compete and deal with pressure at 'SC and in a large media market in Los Angeles," Sanchez said of stepping in for the retired Favre, "and things are only going to bigger and better. It's a very exciting time, a special time in my life, so I'm excited to get things going."

Oddly, both drew plenty of boos and chants of "OVERRATED" to go with the many cheers.

The Lions, whose poor draft history this decade under Matt Millen eventually led to the winless season, have veteran Daunte Culpepper as the projected starter this year under new coach Jim Schwartz.



Georgia's Matthew Stafford, right, holds up a jersey with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, after the Detroit Lions selected Stafford as the No. 1 overall pick in the NFL Draft at Radio City Music Hall Saturday, April 25, 2009, in New York.

That should give the 21-year-old Stafford a chance to watch and learn.

"Now, it's up to us to develop him and get good players around him," Detroit general manager Martin Mayhew said.

The Lions drafted tight end Brandon Pettigrew of Oklahoma State with the 20th pick overall, which they acquired from Dallas in the trade that sent wide re-

ceiver Roy Williams to the Cowboys.

Nine of the last 12 top overall picks have been quarterbacks. They have included the likes of Peyton and Eli Manning. And Tim Couch, David Carr and Alex Smith.

The massive trade saw Cleveland send its pick to New York, prompting wild cheering in the arena. When the Jets

chose Sanchez, the fans had equally vociferous positive and negative reactions.

Sanchez started for just one season at USC, leading the Trojans to a 12-1 record and a Rose Bowl victory. He had six career starts in college, and will now compete for the job of replacing Brett Favre as the Jets' QB.

"With Mark, I think he's a special guy," Jets coach Rex Ryan said.

New York sent the No. 17 and No. 52 overall choices, plus defensive end Kenyon Coleman, safety Abram Elam and quarterback Brett Ratliff, to Cleveland.

The Browns pulled off two more trades to keep moving down in the opening round and adding later-round picks. At No. 21, the Browns finally stopped dealing and took center Alex Mack of California.

Before that, Baylor offensive tackle Jason Smith was the second pick, by the St. Louis Rams. The 6-foot-4, 306-pound former tight end should be used to playing for a weak team: Baylor was 18-31 in his four years there.

Kansas City, like St. Louis, used nearly all 10 of its minutes seeking a trade before selecting LSU defensive end Tyson Jackson. He will join college teammate Glenn Dorsey on the Chiefs' defensive line.

Wake Forest linebacker Aaron Curry, who had spoken with Detroit about being the top overall pick, landed in Seattle at No. 4. Curry is considered capable of playing inside or outside in the pros.

Cincinnati went for Alabama tackle Andre Smith, the first AP All-American selected, at No. 6. Smith had some issues that included leaving the NFL combine early without notifying anyone, but the Bengals were unswayed.

Another tackle, Virginia's Eugene Monroe, went eighth overall to Jacksonville, one spot after Oakland—no surprise here—was seduced by the

speed of Maryland's Darrius Heyward-Bey. The Raiders grabbed the player who had the fast 40-yard time in workouts, even though many projected him to go far later.

Boston College defensive tackle B.J. Raji to Green Bay and Texas Tech's Michael Crabtree, the highest-rated receiver before the draft, to San Francisco, rounded out the top 10.

Other noteworthy picks in the opening round included Georgia running back Knowshon Moreno, 12th to Denver; Southern California linebackers Brian Cushing (15th to Houston) and Clay Matthews (26th to Green Bay); Kansas State quarterback Josh Freeman (17th to Tampa Bay); RB Donald Brown, the nation's leading rusher with 2,083 yards and the first UConn player ever selected in the first round, No. 27 to Indianapolis; and WR Kenny Britt (No. 30 to Tennessee), the first Rutgers player to go in the opening round.

West Virginia's highly productive quarterback, Pat White, who some teams look at as a wide receiver in the pros, was chosen by Miami, where he could fit nicely in their Wildcat formation.

San Francisco acquired a 2010 first-round pick from Carolina by sending its second-rounder, 43rd overall, and its fourth-rounder to the Panthers. Carolina took defensive end Everett Brown of Florida State, who was projected as a first-rounder in mock drafts.

In all, 19 offensive players and 13 on defense went, and 15 underclassmen were chosen. Eight players from the Southeastern Conference were selected. Southern California had three Trojans picked, the most of any school.

The second round concluded with Denver acquiring the 64th spot from Pittsburgh and selecting North Carolina tight end Richard Quinn.



BOSTON (AP)—Jason Varitek hit a grand slam, Mike Lowell drove in six runs and the Boston Red Sox earned their biggest comeback victory against the Yankees since 1968, beating New York 16-11 Saturday for their ninth straight win.

Boston was trailing 6-0 before its offense got untracked with five runs in the fourth inning. Lowell hit a three-run homer in the seventh to put the Red Sox ahead for good, then added a three-run double in the eighth after the Yankees again walked Friday night's star Jason Bay in front of him.

Athletics 5, Rays 2

At Oakland, Calif., Jason Giambi hit the first homer of his second stint with Oakland, Nomar Garciaparra hit a three-run double and the Athletics ended a five-game skid.

Dallas Braden (2-2) allowed one run and four hits in 5 2-3 innings to earn the win for Oakland, which had dropped nine of 12 before beating Tampa Bay for its first win in a day game this season.

Rangers 6, Orioles 5

At Baltimore, Ian Kinsler homered twice and Texas led off the first three innings with home runs against Mark Hendrickson.

Andruw Jones and Chris Davis also connected against Hendrickson (1-3), who lasted only 4 1-3 innings. The Rangers, who have won four of six, lead the majors with 35 homers and have hit

Varitek, Lowell help Red Sox stop Yankees

two or more 13 times this season.

Mariners 9, Angels 8

At Anaheim, Calif., Russell Branyan gave Angels emergency starter Anthony Ortega a rude welcome to the big leagues with a three-run homer in the first inning, leading Seattle to the victory.

Carlos Silva (1-2) won for the first time in his last 15 starts dating to last season, allowing three runs and six hits over five innings. The right-hander, who had lost eight straight decisions since his previous win on June 28, is 2-19 since starting last season 3-0.

Twins 7, Indians 1

A Cleveland, Kevin Slowey pitched eight sharp innings and Jason Kubel hit two solo homers for Minnesota.

Slowey (3-0) carried a five-hit shut-out into the ninth but allowed three singles to open the inning before departing with the bases loaded. Luis Ayala struck out Ben Francisco, but Kelly Shoppach singled in a run. Ayala then got Tony Graffanino to bounce into a game-ending double play.

White Sox 10, Blue Jays 2

At Chicago, Alexei Ramirez hit his fifth grand slam and drove in a career-high five RBIs, and Jermaine Dye added a two-run homer for Chicago.

Ramirez capped a six-run fifth in-

ning with a drive to left on a 3-2 pitch from reliever Shawn Camp, giving the White Sox an 8-2 lead. He needed just 152 games to reach five grand slams, second fastest in major league history. Rudy York with the Detroit Tigers did it in 139 games in the 1938 season, according to Elias Sports Bureau.

Tigers 9, Royals 1

At Kansas City, Mo., Gerald Laird and Curtis Granderson hit two-run homers and Magglio Ordonez connected for a solo shot, leading Detroit to the victory.

Laird, who had three hits, went deep with Carlos Guillen aboard in the second. Granderson hit his sixth home run in the third after Adam Everett led off the inning with a single.

Cardinals 8, Cubs 2

At St. Louis, Albert Pujols hit his second grand slam of the season and surpassed 1,000 career RBIs, sending St. Louis to an 8-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Saturday and giving the surging Cardinals their ninth straight home win.

The Cardinals have won 10 of their 12 home games this season and are 13-5 overall, good for first place in the NL Central.

Phillies 6, Marlins 4, 10 innings

At Miami, Chase Utley hit a go-ahead RBI single in the 10th inning and Phila-

delphia handed the Marlins their fifth straight loss.

Shane Victorino got the winning rally started with a one-out single off Logan Kensing (0-1). Victorino stole second and scored when Utley lined a shot past shortstop Hanley Ramirez and into center field. Utley moved to third on Ryan Howard's base hit and scored on Jayson Werth's single to make it 6-4.

Braves 10, Reds 2

At Cincinnati, Yunel Escobar drove in a career-high four runs and finished a triple short of the cycle, leading Atlanta to the victory.

Chipper Jones hit a three-run homer and also drove in four runs as the Braves jumped on Bronson Arroyo for six runs in the first two innings and handed the right-hander his first loss in four starts this season.

Mets 8, Nationals 2

At New York, Mike Pelfrey gave the Mets a healthy and effective start, Ryan Church drove in three runs and New York took advantage of sloppy play by the stumbling Nationals.

Still struggling to get the big hit, New York scored four unearned runs off Daniel Cabrera to build an early cushion for Pelfrey, who missed his previous turn in the rotation due to forearm tendinitis.

Dodgers 6, Rockies 5

At Denver, Russell Martin matched a career high with four RBIs to help James McDonald earn his first major league win.

McDonald (1-1) gave up five runs and four hits, but walked four in five innings to win in his third start.

Brewers 9, Astros 8, 11 innings

At Houston, Ryan Braun had a go-ahead single in the 11th inning for his fourth hit, and Milwaukee beat Houston after blowing a lead in the ninth.

Prince Fielder hit two homers, including a two-run shot in the ninth that gave Milwaukee an 8-7 lead, and Bill Hall drove in four runs with a three-run drive and an RBI single. But Hall's throwing error in the bottom of the ninth allowed the Astros to tie it.

Pirates 10, Padres 1

At San Diego, left-hander Zach Duke was dominant into the ninth inning to win consecutive road starts for the first time in four years, Craig Monroe and Freddy Sanchez each had three hits and Pittsburgh beat San Diego.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 3

At Phoenix, Randy Winn rescued Randy Johnson's shaky return to Arizona, hitting a two-run homer to lead San Francisco.

Edgar Renteria added a two-run double and Emmanuel Burriss singled home a run for the Giants, who have won five straight.

Bryant's back: Lakers beat Jazz, 108-94



SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Kobe Bryant followed his worst shooting game in years by scoring 38 points to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 108-94 win over the Utah Jazz on Saturday night and a 3-1 series advantage.

Bryant, who was 16-for-24, scored Los Angeles' first 11 points and once his teammates joined in, the Lakers overwhelmed the Jazz and moved within one game of advancing to the second round.

Lamar Odom had 10 points and 15 rebounds and Pau Gasol added 13 points for the Lakers, who host Game 5 on Monday night.

Deron Williams had 23 points and 13 assists and Carlos Boozer also scored 23 and pulled down 16 rebounds for Utah.

The Jazz won Game 3 on Thursday, holding Bryant to a 5-for-24 shooting night and 18 points.

That got Utah within 2-1 in the series, but also stirred Bryant and the Jazz paid for it Saturday.

The Lakers staggered the Jazz with 40 points in the second quarter, then completed the knockout in the third with defense, holding Utah to just 16 points. The Jazz hurt themselves by going 2-for-6 from the foul line and were outrebounded 15-8 and the Lakers stretched the lead to 19.

Utah got within five twice early in the third, then Bryant and the Lakers smothered the comeback. Bryant scored six during an 8-2 run, hitting two jumpers and adding two free throws to put the Lakers up 72-61 with 7:54 left in the period. The Jazz missed from outside and never were able to establish much in the lane. When the Jazz did get inside, they missed and didn't get the foul calls they wanted.

Shannon Brown's two free throws with 25 seconds left gave the Lakers an 88-69 lead at the end of three, giving Utah's usually-rowdy fans little to cheer in the fourth.

The Lakers first silenced the crowd in the second period, making 12 of their first 18 shots and finished the period 14-for-20, outscoring the Jazz 40-28 while taking a 60-53 halftime lead.

Luke Walton, Sasha Vujacic and Brown made consecutive 3-pointers for the Lakers during a 9-2 spurt that



Los Angeles Lakers Kobe Bryant, right, drives past Utah Jazz forward Andrei Kirilenko of Russia, during the first half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Saturday, April 25, 2009, in Salt Lake City.

put Los Angeles ahead 36-34 while Bryant rested on the bench. Bryant returned with 7:02 left in the second and led the Lakers on a 7-2 run, slipping in a reverse layup after a turnover to put the Lakers ahead 43-36 and prompting a timeout by Utah with 5:10 left.

Utah managed to cut it to 60-53 at halftime. Williams made two foul shots with 3.9 seconds left, then Boozer tipped Walton's long in-

bounds pass back to Williams, who drove for a layup and drew a foul on Walton with 0.2 seconds left. Williams made the free throw and the Lakers' lead was down to seven points after standing at 12 just four seconds earlier.

Center Mehmet Okur returned for Utah in his first game since straining his right hamstring April 13 and was obviously rusty after the layoff, finishing with two rebounds and no points.

Mavericks 99, Spurs 90

At Dallas, Josh Howard scored 28 points, seven in an early second-half spurt that put the Dallas Mavericks ahead to stay in a victory over the San Antonio Spurs that gave them a 3-1 lead in their first-round series.

Tony Parker had 31 of his 43 points by halftime, matching George Gervin's franchise playoff record for points in a half. That came after he was held to 12 points in Game 3, when the Spurs lost 88-67 in their lowest-scoring playoff game ever.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in San Antonio.

Without an incredible comeback, the Spurs will be eliminated in the first round of the playoffs for the first time since 2000. They have been in every postseason since and won three NBA titles.

Tim Duncan followed his worst playoff game ever, four points and two rebounds in Game 3, with 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Hornets 95, Nuggets 93

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 32 points and 12 assists in 46 minutes, helping New Orleans hold on to beat Denver in Game 3 of their first-round series.

Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points for Denver, but missed a jumper that

could have put the Nuggets in the lead with under 5 seconds left. James Posey, playing with a sprained knee, corralled the rebound and New Orleans held on, pulling to 2-1 in the series with Game 4 coming up on Monday night.

David West had 19 points and nine rebounds before fouling out in the final minute. Rasual Butler scored 17 points and Posey had 13 points and nine rebounds, none bigger than his last with 3.2 seconds left.

Chauncey Billups scored 16 points, J.R. Smith had 14, Linas Kleiza 13 and Kenyon Martin 12.

Heat 107, Hawks 78

At Miami, Dwyane Wade finished with 29 points and eight assists, Jermaine O'Neal added 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Miami extended Atlanta's decade-plus road playoff drought.

The Heat lead the series 2-1 and host Game 4 Monday night.

It was over early: Atlanta missed 17 of its first 19 shots, and a 25-6 Heat run to end the first half pushed their lead to 50-29.

Josh Smith, Al Horford and Mike Bibby scored 13 apiece for Atlanta, which is 0-12 in road playoff games since May 8, 1997, losing all but one by at least 10 points.



NBA BRIEFS

Mavs' Terry named NBA's top sixth man

DALLAS—Mavericks guard Jason Terry is the best off the bench. Terry, who took on a different role for Dallas the past two seasons, was presented Friday with the NBA sixth man award that goes to the league's top reserve. While starting only 11 of his 74 games in the regular season, Terry averaged 19.6 points and 3.4 assists while playing about 34 minutes a game. The only time Terry had a higher scoring average was 2000-01, his second NBA season, when he averaged 19.7 points for Atlanta. After starting only 27 games as a rookie, Terry started 531 of his 563 games for the Hawks and Mavericks from 2000-07. Terry averaged 15.5 points for Dallas last season, when he started 34 times but was the only Mavericks player to get into every game.

Lakers consultant Winter hospitalized

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tex Winter,

the longtime Los Angeles Lakers consultant and mentor to coach Phil Jackson, has been hospitalized in Kansas, a team spokesman said Saturday. Winter, 87, fell ill Saturday morning in Manhattan, where he was attending a reunion of Kansas State basketball team members, said John Black, the Lakers' vice president of communications. Black would not comment on Winter's specific condition, citing medical privacy laws. "I can tell you that his condition has shown a slight improvement from this morning," Black said. Before the Lakers' playoff game at Utah, Jackson said he had spoken to Winters' family and that Winter was resting. "We probably won't have any better idea until tomorrow (Sunday) morning," Jackson said. "There is a 24-hour span of time that is very critical." Winter was head coach of the Houston Rockets from 1972-1974. In the 1980s, he worked as an assistant coach for the Chicago Bulls, where he began a long working relationship with Jackson.

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Jerry Kelly just wants to have fun.

Of course, even in New Orleans where he loves the great food and hot music, walking off with his third PGA Tour victory and the \$1.1 million payday the Zurich Classic would provide would certainly up the fun factor.

"I'm going to try to have fun and see what happens," Kelly said after shooting a bogey-free 3-under 69 on Saturday to increase his lead to three strokes. "That's the key to my success when I come to a place like this. I have fun outside the ropes and inside the ropes."

Kelly, the 42-year-old Wisconsin player who won his two PGA Tour titles in 2002, has previously held or shared a three-shot lead after 54 holes six times in his career. Only one of those leads has led to a win—the 2002 Sony Open. But this year 13 of the 16 players who have been up by three going into the fi-

Kelly stretches Zurich Classic lead

nal round have won.

"You know, I've got a swing that's not new, but it hasn't really been tested as much as I'd like to have it tested," said Kelly, who made two birdies on the front nine and one on the back. "That's because I haven't played well in the last few years."

His only goal Saturday was to be comfortable, said Kelly, who withdrew from the Verizon Heritage last week because of the flu and a dislocated rib that caused severe back pain. "I'm not going to force shots."

When he got into trouble Saturday, Kelly said he "played smart." He credited that, and an improved, but not perfect swing with his spot at the top of the

leaderboard.

Kelly had a 13-under 203 total at TPC Louisiana. He opened with rounds of 68 and 68.

Steve Marino made the strongest move of the day, using eight birdies to offset two bogeys and a double bogey. Marino moved to 11 under before a bogey on the par-5 18th dropped him to 10 under, still good enough to give him sole possession of second place.

"It came out real hot and went over the green," said Marino, who finished with a 68. "That's the last place you want to be. I ended up making six. But I played well all day, and I look forward to more."



players said.

"It's very difficult with the wind conditions," said Wi, who had the first-round lead. "Especially on 17, you get it next to the water. And you make mistakes there."

David Toms (72) was 8 under along with Jeff Overton (68), Joe Ogilvie (69), Roland Thatcher (70), Rory Sabbatini (71), Kevin Stadler (71) and John Merrick (72).

"I wasn't making birdies and I got kind of behind," Toms said. "I needed to make some shots and play smart and play the golf course like you have to."

Stadler, who finished with a triple bogey, gained entry into the tournament as a Monday qualifier when he shot a 66 at the Bridges Golf Club in Bay St. Louis, Miss. Stadler is a conditional player after finishing 145th on last year's money list.

Pangelinan sizzles as Hustlers rout D-9ers

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



John Pangelinan stood his ground at the mound and contributed on offense, too to power the Hustlers to a 12-2 route over the San Roque D-9ers in the Big League Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Thursday night at the Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios Ballfield.

Pangelinan pitched almost perfectly, giving up only a single to E.J. Tenorio in the top of the first inning.

Tenorio tripled and drove Chad Atalig home then the former scored on a sacrifice fly by David Camacho and the D-9ers had a 2-0 lead with one out. After that, Pangelinan allowed only Rudolpho King to advance on a base-on-ball before the former grounded the latter to second base on a 1-6 play.

Pangelinan struck out nine batters after five complete innings, lifting the Hustlers to a 10-run mercy rule victory. He went 3-for-5 at bat and had three runs and an RBI.

After the D-9ers scored two runs, the Hustlers, retaliated with

five runs in the bottom of the first to seize control of the game.

Anthony Aldan and Pangelinan scored on pass balls, Vicente Leon Guerrero stole home plate, Giovanni Ayuyu reached home on an Anthony Rogolofoi single, and John Paul Lizama’s triple drove Luis Arriola home.

Pangelinan scored the lone run in the second inning on a pass ball, while Lizama, Marvin Kaipat, and Pangelinan had one RBI singles apiece for the Hustlers in the third, bringing home Arriola, Vince Cepeda, and Kaipat.

The Hustlers added two more runs via RBI singles in the fourth and Leon Guerrero tripled to send Pangelinan home in the fifth. The Hustlers gained their third straight win this season, and only first against the D-9ers this year. The D-9ers and Hustlers’ first meeting on March 24 was rained out.

The Hustlers now hold a 4-2 record and are tied with the Tanapag Falcons for second place. Ol’Aces are leading the Big League Division with their 5-2 slate.

The D’9ers suffered their first back-to-back losses this season and are now tied with Aztecs

with their identical 2-3 marks. The D-9ers will try to bounce back when they meet the IT&E Fielders (1-5) tomorrow.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
John Pangelinan prepared to pitch in the Hustlers’ 12-2 win over the D-9ers last Thursday night.

BUCHER

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fifth straight XTERRA Saipan Championship win might be difficult to eclipse, said she will take a three-day rest back home before buckling down to work.

Following her victory in the 8th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship and the 20th Tagaman Triathlon, Bucher is set to compete in XTERRA Las Vegas on May 2.

The Swiss pro booked her second Tagaman victory Saturday after timing in at three hours, 28 minutes and 18 seconds, nearly lacking serious threat from the rest of the field in the women’s division.

Bucher’s closest pursuer was Saipan’s Miek Carey, who still submitted a good time (3:32:58) despite racing with broken ribs (left side). Carey sustained the injury after a bike crash during XTER-RA Saipan.

The absence of two-time world champion Julie Dibens of Great Britain also made the day easy for Bucher.

Dibens had a bike crash during XTERRA Saipan and ended up having broken ribs (right side), too. She missed Tagaman due to an earlier commitment in another event in Florida.

But with or without Dibens or any other pros, a win is a win for Bucher.

“Sometimes it’s nice to win just like that. It was a little bit

MATSUMARU

From Page 28

tion area more than a minute ahead of Gardner.

The newly crowned Tagaman Triathlon champion had already started the run leg at the back of Hyatt Regency Saipan at Micro Beach when Gardner reached the transition area. The two triathletes had identical times in the run leg (58:56), preserving Matsumaru’s victory.

Gardner believed fatigue finally caught up with him after the long race.

“I’ve been here for more than three weeks, biking and running from south to north. I really got tired, my legs were cramping. I just continued running and paced myself, as I don’t want to get into trouble heading home,” said Gardner, who submitted a total time of 3:02:03.

Noble was about more than a minute behind Matsumaru and Gardner in the run portion and settled for third overall. The Aussie bet was the first pro out of the Micro Beach waters, timing in at 26:49 and third in the bike (1:36:95) for a total time of 3:04:53.

Noble’s 2009 time was

easier for me and I am really glad because I saved a lot of energy,” she said.

By winning both XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman, Bucher retained the PIC Double crown and earned a free accommodation at the Pacific Islands Club for next year’s Saipan Sports Fest.

She said she is looking forward for the competition next year, as she aims to defend three titles—XTERRA, Tagaman, and the PIC Double.

and dealt the Jets their second defeat in 10 assignments.

The Jets slipped to third following the Hustlers’ win.

Dragons 12, Century A’s 2

The Dragons roared to a lopsided 12-2 win over Century A’s to remain in fifth position in the team standings with a 7-3 card.

The Athletics absorbed their fourth loss in 11 matches to stay in ninth place.

sides Jo, the Stormz had only Seong Bin Lee and Jesse Sablan scoring in the fourth with two points apiece.

In contrast, MCS drew contributions from five players in the payoff canto with Kautz drilling seven after an anemic third-quarter output (two points). Salas and Taguchi added five and four, respectively, while Calvin Yang and Sablan tallied two each.

MCS 71 – Kautz 15, Taguchi 14, Sablan 14, Salas 14, Ha 6, Tang 4, Nicholas 4.

MBA – Jo 29, Sablan 10, Samson 4, S.B. Lee 4, Manglona 4, R. Park 2, A. Park 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-18, 33-30, 51-41, 71-55.

OL’ACES

From Page 28

Catcher Virolanson Sec-harmidal continued with his decent stint at the batter’s box, going 1-for-3 with a walk and two runs.

IT&E suffered its ninth loss in 10 outings.

Leadoff batter Ton Ilo scored the lone run for IT&E in the top of first on a wild pitch.

Hustlers 12, Survivors 4

The Hustlers climbed to solo second at 9-2 after beating the Survivors, 12-4.

The Survivors fell to 5-5.

Shell 4, Jets 3

Earlier in the day, Shell scored a dramatic 4-3 come-from-behind win over the heavily favored Jets.

Shell rallied from a 1-2 deficit with three runs in bottom of the fifth. P.J. Sablan drove home

Paul Celis on a single then Sablan and Logan Martin, who also singled, put the team in front after taking advantage of two consecutive fielding errors.

With one out in the bottom of the sixth, substitute Joseph Guerrero Jr. gave the Jets their final run on a single by Seo Wong Jong.

Celis, who relieved Peter Deleon Guerrero in the fifth inning, struck out out the next two batters for the win. Shell posted its second win after 10 matches

half with Salas and Taguchi joining the scoring spree. Salas was scoreless in the first half, while Taguchi was held to a fieldgoal. But they combined for 12 of the Knights’ 18 points in the third to give MCS a 51-41 advantage, entering the final canto.

After keeping pace with the Knights in the first half, MBA started to fall apart in the third, as five of its players who scored in the third were limited to only two points each.

Jo, who had only a fieldgoal in the third period, redeemed himself in the fourth, making 12 markers. But MBA still failed to recover and steal the win, as Jo lacked support from his teammates. Be-

A balance offense lifted the Knights to their second win over the Stormz, as Mt. Carmel drew double figures from four players. David Kautz fired 15 points, while Rodney Salas, Tim Taguchi, and Sean Sablan chipped in 14 apiece.

Kautz and Sablan nailed six markers each in the first quarter, which ended in a tie, 18-all. Charlie Jo kept the Stormz in the game in the opening period, making 12 of his MBA’s total output.

Jo slowed down in the second, as he notched only four points, while Sablan added six more to put the Knights in the lead at halftime, 33-30.

Mt. Carmel increased the lead to double digits in second

about 10 minutes slower than his 2008 clocking of (2:54:25) when he beat Matsumaru, who curiously had a faster time last year (2:56:57).

Renata Bucher’s 2008 time (3:25:34) was also better than her 2009 time (3:28:18). But she still topped the women’s division, easily beating Saipan bet and crowd favorite Miek Carey (3:32:58).

Carey may have won only second place in the women’s division, but she is ranked No. 1 for the effort she exerted in the race. Carey competed in Tagaman with broken ribs, which she sustained during a bike crash in last week’s XTERRA Saipan.

“When you are out there, doing the race, you tend to forget the pain. You just keep pushing yourself until you reach the finish line,” Carey said.

Just like what happened in XTERRA Saipan, Bucher

crossed the Tagaman finish line at Micro Beach uncontested.

“Although I did not beat my time in 2008, I had a smooth race this year. I just paced myself and enjoyed cruising the beautiful island of Saipan, again,” said Bucher, who won her second title in four Tagaman appearances.

Bucher was runner-up to Julie Dibens in 2007 and to Jamie Whitmore in 2005. Dibens could not make it to this year’s Tagaman, as she had to leave after XTERRA Saipan to prepare for a race in Florida, while Whitmore is still recovering from an illness.

In place of Dibens and Whitmore were one female triathlete each from the U.K. and Japan, and Pacific Islands Club’s Kimiko Hasegawa.

Japan’s Noriko Takano finished third (3:39:50), followed by U.K.’s Susan Blackett (3:42:55), and Hasegawa (4:20:36).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES									
MLB STANDINGS									
AMERICAN LEAGUE									
East Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Toronto	13	6	.684	-	Martin Laird	68	70	71	209
Boston	11	6	.647	1	K.J. Choi	72	66	71	209
New York	9	8	.529	3	Ian Poulter	71	66	72	209
Baltimore	8	10	.444	4 1/2	Bob Estes	73	69	68	210
Tampa Bay	7	11	.389	5 1/2	Jason Dufner	68	73	69	210
Central Division									
Chicago	9	8	.529	-	Steve Stricker	68	73	69	210
Detroit	9	8	.529	-	Brett Quigley	72	69	69	210
Kansas City	9	8	.529	-	Brian Davis	70	70	70	210
Minnesota	9	9	.500	1/2	Nicholas Thompson	70	70	70	210
Cleveland	6	12	.333	3 1/2	Scott Piercy	71	69	70	210
West Division									
Seattle	12	6	.667	-	Nathan Green	67	72	71	210
Texas	8	9	.471	3 1/2	Kenny Perry	69	70	71	210
Oakland	6	10	.375	5	Y.E. Yang	69	70	71	210
Los Angeles	6	11	.353	5 1/2	Greg Owen	70	68	72	210
East Division									
Florida	11	6	.647	-	Troy Matteson	71	64	75	210
Atlanta	9	8	.529	2	Webb Simpson	70	71	70	211
Philadelphia	8	8	.500	2 1/2	Jason Day	69	71	71	211
New York	8	9	.471	3	D.A. Points	69	71	71	211
Washington	3	13	.188	7 1/2	Charles Warren	67	73	71	211
Central Division									
St. Louis	13	5	.722	-	Boo Weekley	72	68	71	211
Pittsburgh	10	7	.588	2 1/2	Woody Austin	71	68	72	211
Cincinnati	9	8	.529	3 1/2	David Mathis	72	65	74	211
Chicago	8	8	.500	4	Jimmy Walker	70	73	69	212
Milwaukee	8	9	.471	4 1/2	Ryan Palmer	70	73	69	212
Houston	6	12	.333	7	George McNeill	69	74	69	212
West Division									
Los Angeles	13	5	.722	-	John Senden	70	72	70	212
San Diego	10	7	.588	2 1/2	Tim Petrovic	70	69	73	212
San Francisco	8	8	.500	4	Paul Goydos	69	70	73	212
Arizona	6	11	.353	6 1/2	Charley Hoffman	69	66	77	212
Colorado	5	11	.313	7	Daniel Chopra	71	72	70	213
Yesterday's Games									
N.Y. Mets 8, Washington 2					Chris DiMarco	73	70	70	213
Atlanta 10, Cincinnati 2					John Mallinger	70	73	71	214
St. Louis 8, Chicago Cubs 2					Aron Price	73	70	71	214
Milwaukee 9, Houston 8, 11 innings					Scott Verplank	70	73	71	214
Philadelphia 6, Florida 4, 10 innings					Harrison Frazar	72	70	72	214
L.A. Dodgers 6, Colorado 5					Matt Jones	72	69	73	214
San Francisco 5, Arizona 3					Matt Bettencourt	70	70	74	214
Pittsburgh 10, San Diego 1					Ryan Moore	68	71	75	214
Oakland 5, Tampa Bay 2					Eric Axley	67	71	76	214
Boston 16, N.Y. Yankees 11					Parker McLachlin	67	69	78	214
Texas 6, Baltimore 5					Chris Riley	73	70	72	215
Minnesota 7, Cleveland 1					Scott Sterling	70	73	72	215
Chicago White Sox 10, Toronto 2					Steve Allan	76	67	72	215
Detroit 9, Kansas City 1					Michael Letzig	72	71	73	216
Seattle 9, L.A. Angels 8					Rick Price	71	71	74	216
By The Associated Press									
LOCAL SCORES									
LITTLE LEAGUE STANDINGS									
Major Division									
Ol'Aces	10	0							
Hustlers	9	2							
Jets	8	2							
Red Sox	7	2							
Dragons	7	3							
Little Lions	5	4							
Survivors	5	5							
Braves	4	5							
Century A's	4	7							
Little Falcons	2	7							
Twins	2	7							
JPO Enforcers	2	7							
Shell	2	8							
IT&E	1	9							
Big Division									
Ol'Aces	5	2							
Hustlers	5	2							
Tanapag Falcons	4	2							
Team Aztecs	2	3							
D-9ers	2	3							
IT&E Fielders	1	5							

KNIGHTS

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seventh win in nine games. The Knights tamed the Stormz in the first round, 64-52. MCS is currently in second place in the team standings in the boys division, a win behind league-leading Grace Christian Academy (8-1). MBA dropped to a 4-5 slate.

In the girls division, the Lady Knights are on top with an 8-1 mark and were headed for their ninth victory as they led MBA cagebells by a big margin in the second game played on Thursday, too. Final scores were unavailable at press time.

The Week in Sports

Tagaman tops them all

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

The CNMI sports community was treated to a second serving of exciting triathlon races with the staging of the 20th Tagaman Triathlon Saturday, while the rest of sporting events on Saipan last week went ahead as scheduled.

Switzerland's Renata Bucher completed her domination of the 2009 Saipan Sports Fest after winning the women's division of this year's Tagaman Triathlon. Bucher also prevailed in the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Japanese Masauki Matsumaru foiled Sam Gardner's bid for a sweep in the Sports Fest, as the former ruled the men's division of Saturday's races.

Forty-six of 51 individual entries completed the 1.5-kilometer swim leg, 60-km bike part, and 15-km run portion of the 2009 edition of Tagaman Triathlon, bringing them from the southern side of the island to its

scenic spot to the north.

In the relay division, all 18 teams finished the grueling road race.

The 2009 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships also had a team competition with its doubles event.

Four pairs were named champions in the weekend tournament. The list included the tandems of Christian Miller and Daniel Camacho (boys' 18-and-under) Adele Hudkins and Alina Ishikawa (girls' 12-and-under) Chris Cajigan and Carl Dela Cruz, (boys' 12-and-under) and siblings Thea and Thecel Minor (girls' 18-and-under.)

Another doubles competition concluded last week with the 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament having five champion teams.

They were Daniel Macario and Jorge Olanda (men's B), Rick Brien and Frank Villagomez (men's C), Macoi Aguda and Saul Gargallo (men's A), Ingrid Sanchez and Cristy Villaflor (women's B), and Annette Quiambao and Irene Santiago (women's C).

Youth bowler Raphael Zapanta was alone in his victory in the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes tournament. He ruled the April roll-off at the

Saipan Bowling Center for his fourth straight monthly title.

Percy Omechelang and Yho Villavicencio claimed their second Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes monthly title after topping this month's roll-offs.

Omechelang and Villavicencio both prevailed in the February edition of the monthly tournament.

Hopwood Junior High School and Chacha Oceanview Junior High School won in the NMIFA U14 Interscholastic Football League 2009 for the first time, but it was big, as they also captured the

championship in the boys and girls divisions of the inaugural event.

Hopwood Junior High's boys team stunned the favored Saipan International School, 2-1, while Chacha slipped past Hopwood's girls squad in a shootout, 4-3.

Hopwood's male strikers bowed to SIS three times in the preliminary round before winning in the finals. Chacha had the same fate in the girls' division, as Hopwood swept all three games in the regular season.

In the 2008-2009 Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League, Beach Boys beat Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for the first time, 20-7, to advance to the finals.

DCCA was undefeated in 21 games before losing to Beach Boys and needs to prevail against Freedom Air tonight to notch the second finals berth.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Masauki Matsumaru of Japan smiles after winning the 20th Tagaman Triathlon Saturday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rezne Wong, center, gets a shower from Pacific Islands Club staff after completing the swim part of the 20th Tagaman Triathlon Saturday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Renata Bucher, Mamiko Berger, and Mieko Carey pose for a group photo after the 20th Tagaman Triathlon last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament pose for a group photo after their games at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes April roll-off winners Percy Omechelang, left, and Yho Villavicencio.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiji Water April Prince of the Lanes Raphael Zapanta, third left, is joined by three other participants in the youth roll-off at the Saipan Bowling Center.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gabrielle Race, right, and Neghar Rastguji take a breather before the change court during the girls' 13-and-under doubles game in the 2009 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players and coaches of Chacha Oceanview Junior High School celebrate after winning the girls division title in the NMIFA U14 Interscholastic Football League 2009 last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



Stafford picked first by Lions, Jets get Sanchez

Matthew Stafford's mission is daunting: Lead the Detroit Lions back from the only 0-16 season in NFL history. Mark Sanchez has nearly as big a challenge: He'll compete to replace Brett Favre.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Tagaman tops them all

The CNMI sports community was treated to a second serving of exciting triathlon races with the staging of the 20th Tagaman Triathlon Saturday, while the rest of sporting events on Saipan last week went ahead as scheduled.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Matsumaru finally wins Tagaman

Bucher dominates race's 20th edition

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

No more bridesmaid finish for Japanese road racer Masau-ki Matsumaru this time. After a runner-up finish in 2007 and 2008, Matsumaru won the 20th Tagaman Triathlon, stunning XTERRA Saipan winner Sam Gardner and dethroned Tagaman champion Andrew Noble in Saturday's race.

The Japanese pro completed the 1.5-kilometer swim leg, 60-km road bike race, and 15-km run part in two hours, 59 minutes, 41 seconds to earn his first Tagaman win after four years of participating in Micronesia's longest-running triathlon.

Matsumaru's victory last weekend also broke Japan's 10-year title drought in the Tagaman. The last time a Japanese bet won in Tagaman was in 1998 with Hideya Miyazuka beating compatriot Yuji Fujiwara and New Zealand's Stephen Farrell.

"It was great to finally win Tagaman. I had a good race today," said Matsumaru, who finished the race more than two minutes ahead of Gardner of the United Kingdom.

The Japanese triathlete was about four minutes ahead of Gardner in the swim leg with Matsumaru posting 26:51 against the latter's 30:47. Gardner had a better time in the bike portion with his 1:30:07. Matsumaru tallied 1:32:14 in the bike leg, but came to the bike-run transi-

See MATSUMARU on Page 26



Matsumaru



Bucher

Ol'Aces beat IT&E, Shell surprises Jets

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Pacesetter Happy Market Ol'Aces treated their game against struggling IT&E as practice session last Saturday yet their 30-1 mercy rule victory is one for the books.

Ol'Aces' 30 runs are the most in a game in the Majors Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Red Sox owned the previous record in a 22-8 win over the same IT&E team last April 18.

Six Ol'Aces players—Jerome Reyes, Gavan Borja, Nathaniel Torres, Zakery Yamagishi, Jessiel Brel, and A.J. Piteg—crossed home plate twice in a 14-run, eight-walk, and five-hit performance in the second inning.

Capitalizing on IT&E's erratic defense, Ol'Aces kept their perfect 10-0 record halfway through the round-robin elimination phase.

Piteg started for Ol'Aces by striking out five batters he faced before Virgil Secharmidal relieved him in the top of the third.

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Bucher thanks Saipan for showering her with love

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

After completing the 2009 Saipan Sports Fest last weekend, Switzerland's Renata Bucher can't help but thank the island's warm people for showering her with so much love.

Though she competes for a living, the 31-year-old Swiss Miss says it's not the prize that makes her a frequent participant in XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman, but its people's hospitality and the island's very relaxing atmosphere.

Bucher said she and the rest of the off-island participants had enjoyed sort of a package tour on Saipan—mixing competition with vacation.

"This set-up helps a lot of athletes. I had a great time and I will bring home all the good memories," said Bucher, who left Saipan yesterday.

She said she will have a lot of stories to tell to her family and friends when she gets back home.



Renata Bucher gets a kiss from JTL's Jim Lovell at the finish line Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

"I would like them to know that I had such a great time here," she said. Bucher, whose unprecedented

See BUCHER on Page 26

Knights weather Stormz

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Mt. Carmel School reasserted its mastery over Marianas Baptist Academy in the high school division of the

2009 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Basketball League with a 71-55 victory Thursday at the MCS court in Chalan Kanoa.

This was the second time the Knights whipped the Stormz in the regular season, giving Mt. Carmel cagers their

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel's Kalani Lebría, left, drives against MBA's Denise Samson during their game in the high school division of the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Basketball League Thursday at the MCS court in Chalan Kanoa.